DEVELOPMENT FORUM

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Child Summit

Moving towards a global ethic

On 29 September, over 60 heads of state will attend the World Summit for Children at UN Headquarters. James P. Grant, executive director of the UN Children's Fund since 1980, is the driving force behind the Summit which aims to put the needs of children at the top of the international agenda. In the following interview with Development Forum's *Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Paul Heath Hoeffel, Mr. Grant explains the rationale for the Summit and provides some personal insights into UNICEF's struggle to create a global ethic that ensures the universal protection of children everywhere.*

DE The World Summit for Children is being touted as the biggest summit in history. What does it mean for the overall campaign for UNICEF's Child Survival and Development Revolution?

JAMES GRANT: The World Summit is coming at a watershed that could easily make the 1990s the period of greatest progress for children in world history. I think for myself personally, for UNICEF, for the World Health Organization, for the World Bank, for the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Summit is not an end but another great beginning. What it will represent is a commitment by the heads of state and a new perception on their part as to what they can do.

Two separate sets of forces are coming into play at the Summit. It comes at the end of the Cold War period—after trillions of dollars a year were spent on this confrontation that has drained energy, imagination and creativity as well.

The other point is that the Summit is coming at a time of growing attention to children. In the early 1980s we realized the potential for a health revolution for children made possible by mobilizing grossly under-utilized, low-cost technologies including vaccines and oral rehydration therapy, together with a mass education campaign that took advantage of the communications revolution—radios in the majority of homes, television in most communities, a school in virtually every community.

When you combine these two trends, you can visualize moving from 14,000 children dying a day from vaccine-preventable diseases to 2-3,000 within a decade.

DE Why the focus on heads of state?

GRANT: One thing we've learned during our Child Survival Revolution in the 80s is that if you are to mobilize the channels of communication there is no better person than the head of state to tell radio and television to spend several minutes a day on "spots", carrying messages, or to inspire the Ministry of Education to get teachers to cooperate, or to urge businessmen to use their billboards and the backs of their matches for communicating messages.

In effect, the Child Survival Revolution made children's health good politics for heads of state, and we saw a doubling, tripling or quadrupling of head of state involvement in child health measures.

So, thanks in large part to the dogged persistence of NGOs in a handful of countries, the Summit comes along as a magnificent way to implement these goals that require more financial resources, but most of all, decisions from the top to mobilize our societies to inform, empower and motivate our citizens to act on these problems.

UN/Jean-Pierre Laffont

DE The highlight of the Summit is the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child...

GRANT: I would not put that as the single highlight. The first one, frankly, is to get the commitment of the leaders of the world to do the readily doable. Of the 40,000 children who die every day, 25,000 die from preventable causes. Yesterday 8,000 died from not being vaccinated. The first objective of the Summit is to remove this obsceni-

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GATT deadline looms

With less than three months to go, negotiators in the GATT talks are under intense pressure to hammer out a far-reaching agreement on world trade. The current round of negotiations, scheduled to end this December in Brussels, has been plagued by major disputes between member countries which have yet to be resolved despite three and a half years of talks. The stakes could hardly be higher. Failure to reach agreement

by Pratap Chatterjee

may result in a new wave of protectionism, which would have disastrous consequences for developed and developing countries alike.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is a Geneva-based organization that oversees negotiations between its 96 member countries, which together control 90 per cent of the world's $3 trillion trade. The current round of talks, known as the Uruguay Round, is the eighth in GATT's 42-year-old history. The major aim of the talks is to remove taxes and trade restrictions on exports and imports from all its member countries, so that producers enjoy equal opportunities to sell their goods or services in other countries.

So far, the talks have ranged developing countries against the developed countries in many bitter battles, particularly in the three areas of agriculture, textiles and services.

Since the beginning of the talks agriculture has been a sore spot. Virtually every industrialized country pays its farmers to produce while taxing or blocking imports. Japan, for example, supports its rice farmers to the extent that Japanese consumers pay up to eight times the international price for

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LDC Conference in Paris

Least developed brace for 1990s

Donors and the 42 countries classified as "least developed" (LDCs) are gathering in Paris from 3-14 September to map out a new strategy for the 1990s after a decade of acknowledged failures all round.

Since the two sides first met under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1981, the world's poorest countries have grown poorer and donors have failed to deliver on their aid promises.

by Colleen Lowe Morna

Calls for debt cancellation as opposed to debt rescheduling, greater access to Western markets and increased resource flows will head the agenda of the LDCs in Paris. They can expect to achieve a general consensus at the Conference on the need to take a longer-term view of structural adjustment programmes, as well as a stronger commitment to increasing resource flows to the world's poorest countries. But there is likely to be controversy over threats by donors to tie new aid to political reforms, and their insistence that the few LDCs that have performed well now graduate from the club.

The one point on which there is no debate is that something has gone terribly wrong over the last decade. According to an advance summary of UNCTAD's 1989 report on LDCs to be tabled at the Conference, the 42 countries have experienced an average annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of 2.3 per cent, less than the rate of population growth. Agricultural production has been equally disappointing, increasing by only 1.6 per cent, while manufacturing has grown by a mere 2 per cent.

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letters

Heifer Project International

Making the connection

Dear Editor—I write to thank you for the ever educative information you at *Development Forum* provide to your readers. A while ago, you informed us about the services of Heifer Project International (HPI) and how they offer heifers to needy families of the very poor.

On behalf of the Bugusege Livestock Project in Uganda, I contacted HPI at the address [P.O. Box 808, Little Rock, AR 72203, USA] you provided with a request that they assist us with heifers.

I wish to inform you with a broad smile on my face that HPI has approved our request for 10 heifers and one bull and that they are all on the way from the US to Bugusege village. We owe all this success to your paper.

All the recipients are needy women with only two widowed men and they have all received the necessary training in preparation for receiving these animals.

Since we are to keep these animals using zero grazing techniques we need some literature on zero grazing, and we request whoever has such simple booklets to send them to us.

Special thanks go to these men and women of goodwill from the US who are assisting us in our fight against malnutrition and poverty.

Rose Mugamba, Chairlady, Bugusege Livestock Project, P.O. Box 2553, Mbale, Uganda.

Bushmen of Namibia

Dear Editor—It was with great pleasure that I read your article on the Bushmen of Namibia by Jim Wurst (*DF*, May-June 1990), about the cooperation of some farmers in northern Namibia with the San-bushmen in western Bushmanland.

Since 1976, I have stayed several times with the Bushmen of these areas, and I know that these pacifist and engaging people deserve our friendship and our help.

Unfortunately, the fact that 4,000 of them were led into South Africa by the South African army on the eve of Namibian independence, and that this was done with the full knowledge of President Nujoma, saddens me; and I wonder about their future in a rapidly changing South Africa, and about the morale of those staying behind in western Bushmanland and in Caprivi, separated by 2,000 kilometres from their brothers who left in the planes of the South African army.

Raymond Martin, Grand Rue, 2112 Môtiers, Switzerland.

Drugs for tropics

Dear Editor—I read with interest Claude Robinson's article "No profit, no research, no cures" in the July-August issue of *DF*. The article is well written and fair.

However, it brings to light a "Catch-22" with which we health-related non-governmental organizations (NGOs) struggle. Namely, the desire, on the one hand, for the extremely wealthy pharmaceutical industries of the West to allocate the technical and financial resources needed to find cures and preventive vaccines for the tropical diseases affecting so many millions of people in the developing world, while recognizing, on the other hand, that these companies will not remain in business unless they produce profits for their investors and for other research and development (R&D). Additionally, many of these large pharmaceutical houses provide support in the form of funding and medicines for our public health eye care programmes. The debate on this subject will no doubt be with us for decades.

I would, however, like to bring up one shining example of what we hope will become a trend among the transnational pharmaceutical firms. Professor Barry R. Bloom of the World Health Organization (WHO), who was quoted in the *DF* article, mentioned "...a United States firm developed a new drug called 'Ivermectin' which has proved effective against the parasite worm that causes river blindness in several West African states. The market cost of the drug was about $5 for a dose, way beyond the reach of the individual victims or their governments".

That firm is Merck and Company, and as the article goes on to say, the company has donated the drug free of charge and the international agencies such as ours are charged with distributing the drug. Presently, the International Eye Foundation has two such programmes, one in Guatemala and one in collaboration with Africare in Nigeria. But then the article talks of a "deal with the WHO" and mentions that "the firm reaped enormous public relations benefits and also several hundred million dollars in actual profits from the veterinary application of Ivermectin..." This language implies a negative connotation to Merck's donation of Ivermectin.

Ivermectin was developed for veterinary purposes *before* its use in humans was tried and Merck would have received those profits anyway. They have done what we have been wanting for many years by turning some of those profits into production of the drug for distribution free of charge for humanitarian purposes through "a cooperative agreement" with the WHO. While we would like to see action of this kind by other transnational firms and even more money put into R&D for tropical diseases, I think that we in the development field must praise such efforts rather than pointing out "what they're getting out of it" and discussing that instead.

Victoria M. Sheffield, Executive Director, The International Eye Foundation, 7801 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA.

QUOTE FOR THOUGHT...

Empty, mindless ways

"I fear that we will fail this particular challenge [of the rainforests] if we are not prepared to accept that sustainable development demands not just a range of different management techniques and funding mechanisms, but a different attitude toward the earth and a less arrogant, man-centred philosophy. One can imagine the situation in which some might be inclined just to Hoover up [i.e. vacuum up] the scientific knowledge of the rainforest Indians, reduce that knowledge to our own moneymaking utilitarian calculus, create scores of new exotic products (such as 140 varieties of manioc muesli), develop thrusting new profit centres out of the tropical forest genetic treasure chest and then simply move on in the old empty, mindless way."

—HRH Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales, from the Rainforest Lecture, Kew Gardens, London, 6 February 1990.

DEVELOPMENT FORUM

"Development Forum has a key role to play in the creation of such an informed public opinion, which sees the future in terms of humankind as a whole. It offers to its readers varied and stimulating opinions on matters of vital concern. As its name implies, its columns are open to all those who have a creative contribution to make towards greater understanding, be they from governments, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, the media, the academic community, or private individuals."
Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, UN Secretary-General

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Europe 1992

Moving quickly towards a unified market in 1992, the 12 members of the European Community (EC) are busy reviewing their foreign aid policies with an eye to the evolving joint EC policy toward the developing regions. Our last issue featured a story on the proposition that Germany make democratic reforms a condition for its foreign assistance programmes.

In the following stories, we report on Italy's proposals for revising EC policy as well as its own domestic position on bilateral aid, and review a top-level report that recommends a number of reforms in French foreign aid policy. This ongoing series, Europe 1992, *will explore the impact of the revised "rules of the game" for developed and developing countries alike.*

Italy proposes new EC aid policies

Italian foreign minister Gianni De Michelis has put forward a proposal that if approved would lead to a major injection of development assistance to Third World countries.

Upon assuming the presidency of the European Community (EC) in June this year, Italy proposed that the 12 member states of the Community devote 1 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) annually to support the economies of developing countries.

by Martin Burcharth

In effect, the Italian plan would mean that large countries like the Federal Republic of Germany, France and the United Kingdom would significantly increase aid allocations which currently vary from 0.32 to 0.50 per cent of their GDP.

They would join smaller EC member states such as The Netherlands and Denmark which already devote about 1 per cent of GDP to development assistance.

De Michelis's proposal specifies that 50 per cent of total EC aid should be directed to developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDC) group, and that 25 per cent go to the 10 states surrounding the Mediterranean. And, in a move that is sure to raise hackles among developing countries, he proposes to direct the remaining 25 per cent of the funds to the former East bloc countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

Italy's controversial proposal will be taken up by the EC later this year, but already it seems unlikely that a majority of member states will support it. Even civil servants within De Michelis's own ministry recognize that the funds are just not there. Italy in fact plans to cut development assistance in the period 1990 to 1993.

The mere fact, however, that one of the seven major industrial powers in the world and the fifth largest donor country has suggested that the emerging economic bloc of EC countries surpass the United Nations' stated official development assistance goal for industrialized nations of 0.7 per cent of GDP is seen as a major step in the North-South debate over development assistance. It also underscores Europe's often-stated intention to play a more important role as donor and lender on the world stage.

UNDP/Gordon James

Like other EC countries, Italy's foreign aid is increasingly tied to the purchase of Italian products like these FIAT trucks which were part of an emergency aid package to Sudan.

A indication of this came earlier this year when the EC signed the Lomé IV Convention with 68 countries in Africa and island states in the Caribbean and the Pacific, thus committing itself to provide a fixed amount of aid annually. And, reflecting the growing realization in Europe of its interdependence with its neighbours to the South, Abel Matutes, EC commissioner for North-South relations, recently proposed a $3.3 billion package of assistance for eight North African countries.

Our critics in the OECD still need to show on a theoretical as well as on a practical level that untied aid is more effective and generous.

The EC also maintains aid programmes with the Central American member states of the San José Process, and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries cooperate with the EC.

The total bill for the EC development aid programmes this year amounts to approximately $3 billion. On top of this each member state continues to run its own projects in the Third World.

Along with the increase in the EC's development aid, other qualitative factors have come to play an important role in formulating policy—factors that might not be welcomed by all recipient countries. The protection of human rights, and in particular free speech, has surfaced as a chapter in the Lomé IV Convention and could be used as an argument to stop the flow of aid to a country that violates the treaty. A number of EC programmes have also been set up

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French aid under scrutiny

More discipline, less favouritism, more aid for human resource development and environmental protection and increased participation in international organizations: these are some of the recommendations of the so-called *Hessel Report*, the focus of current official thinking on France's relations with developing countries.

France, like other European countries, is examining its development cooperation policies in the light of global political and economic shifts—decreased East-West tensions, creation of a unified European market, African economic stagnation and the debt crisis.

The *Hessel Report*, which grew out of an in-depth review of foreign assistance programmes, outlines the broad parameters of the government debate regarding reforms to be undertaken. The author, Ambassador Stéphane Hessel, is an international development specialist who was France's representative to the United Nations in Geneva for negotiations on issues ranging from the Common Fund to least developed countries.

The controversial report, which was submitted to prime minister Michel Rocard recently, points out a central—and the most frequently criticized—characteristic of France's development cooperation, i.e. the nation's almost exclusive focus on its former French-speaking colonies of sub-Saharan Africa which receive most of France's development aid.

However, the report continues, "France has nothing to be ashamed of in terms of its accomplishments in African education, infrastructures etc." But, it points out, Africa is in the process of marginalizing itself, especially compared to Asia. "The basic concept behind our cooperation should be reviewed in terms of rejecting all favouritism, but also developing a better mutual knowledge of our partners, what they offer and their needs."

by Gérard Viratelle

The report suggests numerous reforms. First, France must adapt its diverse channels of development aid to its partners, and not the other way round, since "France cannot be the same partner to all countries". France should also give more attention to Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

"Without disengaging itself, France should reflect on redistributing its support to Africa and on establishing contractual relations with each of its partners." This would require that France also examine with the Africans the necessary transition from an economy too dependent on agricultural commodity exports to a more varied and independent economy.

Secondly, to be more efficient, France should increase its participation in multilateral development efforts with its donor partners. Hessel finds that all must share the burden of financing assistance and advocates closely linked multilateral and bilateral aid. In this regard, he strongly recommends reinforcing the French presence in international organizations, convinced that these institutions will become more and more involved in development problems, and not let the World Bank monopolize development efforts.

The report advocates increasing programmes devoted to urbanization, health, human resources and, in particular, environmental protection. "The industrialized countries should set aside additional financial and technical resources to contribute to the efforts of the most impoverished to protect their environment."

Finally, the report finds French actions to stabilize commodity markets (e.g., Lomé IV's Stabex and the Common Fund based in UNCTAD) to be "disappointing". It argues that France must push for increased productivity and diversity of African producers, who, it asserts, will see their relative advantages decline with the onset of the unified European market and liberalization of trade resulting from GATT negotiations.

The debt problem should not be treated as such, but as a problem of long-term development and related financial conditions. Establishing a real international arbitrating power appears to be necessary.

The report contains one concrete recommendation which seems to have met great resistance in official circles: the creation of what it calls a "High Council of Cooperation and Development". This would be a consultative body which would "put French development cooperation in harmony with the contemporary world." Resistance to this new office appears to arise from concerns that it would usurp functions from other policy-making institutions such as the foreign ministry. Reasons to question development policies abound, writes Hessel, but "problems resulting from France's relations with the Third World will have to be confronted sooner or later." □

Gérard Viratelle is a longstanding DF *correspondent based in Paris.*

Aid donors to Africa: fewer guns, more security

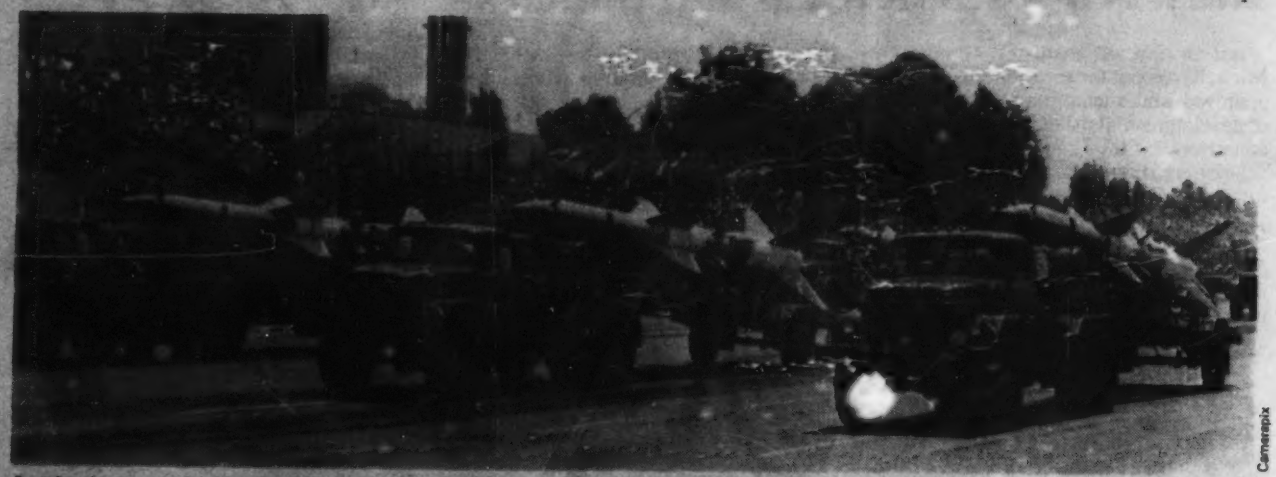
Africa's high levels of military spending, for years tolerated and even encouraged by the international community, are coming under increasingly harsh attack. With the continent's desperate economic plight and the emergence of new democracies in Eastern Europe and Latin America, pressures on African leaders to reduce their heavy reliance on the military seem certain to increase as the 1990s unfold.

by Samantha Sparks

The devastating effects of Africa's militarization are easily seen in countries torn by civil war, such as Angola, Ethiopia or Mozambique. With as much as half the public budget going into the war effort, these countries are unable to invest in the development projects they so badly need. But military spending is also high in many other countries, including Burkina Faso, Chad, Senegal, Sudan, Togo and Zambia.

In fact, Africa as a whole spends more on its military as a proportion of output than every other developing region except the Middle East: about 4.3 per cent of gross national product (GNP) in 1987, according to the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA). This compares to just 2.1 per cent of GNP for East Asia, and about 2.0 per cent for Latin America. Looked at another way, Africa—one of the world's poorest regions—is also the third largest recipient of world arms transfers, behind the Middle East and Europe.

While few analysts challenge the concept of a national right to maintain a professional military force, there is widespread consensus that heavy military spending in Africa is decreasing, rather than enhancing, the region's security. Resources desperately needed for development are too often spent to win the military's continued support and perpetuate undemocratic rule. Major donor nations have encouraged this trend, particularly in countries deemed "strategic" to their interests such as Angola, Ethiopia, Somalia and Zaire. "Military aid to a lot of these countries has bolstered military regimes that are not in our interest nor in their interest to preserve", contends Harry Shaw, a former chief of the military assistance branch at the US Office of Management and Budget, which oversees military aid programmes.



Camerapix

Social and economic development in countries such as Ethiopia (pictured above) has been crippled by enormous military expenditures and draining civil wars.

Grassroots groups and African exiles have long challenged Africa's military dependency. But in recent months, prominent international officials such as World Bank president Barber Conable, have spoken out on the issue, warning that donors may not be willing to aid governments that do not rein in military spending. "Excessive military budgets", said Conable at a press conference in July, "clearly affect the capacity to have a coherent growth and poverty [reduction]-related programme." Addressing Africa's problems in particular, the Bank chief recently called upon aid donors to become more "disciplined" to ensure their assistance is not "squandered on military spending".

Conable's remarks were unusual because the World Bank takes pains to avoid non-economic issues. His statements appear to underscore a growing recognition in the international community that the line between "political" and "economic" issues is hard to draw, particularly in the many desperately poor nations of Africa. With this recognition comes a rethinking of traditional approaches to "security" on the continent. "Security", insists Sharon Pauling, a policy analyst with the Washington think-tank Bread for the World, "means people can eat, people have a voice in government, people have housing. It's not about standing there with a gun."

Beyond its inherently destabilizing effects, some of the continent's militarization has been financed by debt, deepening the drain on scarce foreign exchange.

Egypt is one example: with an average annual per capita income of just $660, the country owes some $6 billion, about half its total foreign debt, to the United States for arms purchases. The debt burden itself drains resources from development: in 1990, Egypt's repayments on military loans represented fully 88 per cent of new US economic aid the country received. As a final blow, in some industrial countries, including the US, debtors unable to service their military loans face a suspension of all other aid.

Recent trends offer some cause for hope that the militarization of Africa may be on the decline. The growth in military spending on the continent as a whole actually dropped for the first time, by a little over 1 per cent from 1982-87, according to the ACDA. Still, spending on health and social services in most countries dropped by much more. As a study by the International Monetary Fund recently showed, developing country governments tend to spare military spending when making overall budget cuts.

Analysts believe African military spending will continue to decline in the 1990s, driven by tighter world economic conditions and international pressures on governments to respect human rights. Certainly, foreign military aid is not expected to rise. The decrease in US-Soviet tensions and the domestic economic problems facing both superpowers have already prompted a reduction in military aid to those countries which became ideological battlegrounds in the early 1980s.

With the continent still dominated by military regimes, there are fears that many African governments will be slow to change.

But with the continent still dominated by military regimes, there are fears that many African governments will be slow to change. "Many of them are dictatorships and they rely on the military to stay in power", observes George Ayittey, a Ghanaian academic at the Heritage Foundation in Washington. "We have to put pressure on them." Ayittey urges that "aid should be suspended to any African country that spends more than 10 per cent of its budget on the military." So far, none of the major donor nations has adopted such a stand. But as the links between militarization and under-development continue to be drawn, the pressures are certain to build. □

Samantha Sparks is a freelance writer based in Washington, D.C.

Italian propositions

from page 3

to support IMF and World Bank structural adjustment programmes at a time when the very efficacy of these programmes, from an economic as well as a social-impact standpoint, is being seriously questioned.

Italy, more than most major donors, ties political and economic strings to its development assistance programmes and plans to emphasize this feature even more under the current administration. "We have fixed more strict criteria for development aid and underlined the importance of the impact and efficiency of the aid itself", says counsellor Mario Panaro in the Foreign Ministry's department for development assistance.

Panaro explains that Italy has decided to move its geographical focus away from Africa and Asia and towards Latin America and the newcomer, Central and Eastern Europe. This means that during the next three years Africa will see its share of Italy's foreign aid cut from 45 per cent to 37 per cent, and Asia's share from 23 to 18 per cent. Latin America, on the other hand, will receive 24 per cent and not 19 per cent as previously proposed. The remaining part will be devoted to Mediterranean countries and the EC.

It is not clear, however, where funds to the former communist countries will come from. Panaro asserts that the $80 million devoted this year and the $200 million earmarked for the triennial 1991-93 come from supplementary funds.

Behind the shift in geographical focus lies an attempt to seek new markets for Italian industry. The foreign ministry official couches this in terms of "concentrating the projects in countries that are better adapted to receive aid". But even De Michelis has clearly stated that commercial interests must weigh heavier in Italian development assistance decisions in the future. "Obviously", said Professor Antonino Colajanni, president of the Italian NGO *Ricerca e Cooperazione*, "African countries do not serve Italian trade policy in that they mostly purchase their goods from France, the UK and Japan. That is not the case with, for instance, Argentina and Eastern European countries."

But veering toward a more commercially based development aid policy has not led Italy to shift funds from multilateral to bilateral assistance, remarks Panaro. "In the coming three years the distribution will remain the same, namely 40 per cent devoted to international organizations and 60 per cent to individual countries."

The total bill in 1988 was $3.2 billion and will nominally remain more or less the same until 1993, which results in a reduction in aid as a proportion of GDP from 0.41 per cent in 1988 to 0.39 in 1989 and 0.37 this year.

Another increasingly important characteristic of Italian development assistance is tying aid to procurement. In its recent review of Italian aid, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) urged the government to ensure that "tying did not impair the developmental quality of Italian aid". To this Italy has responded that "the overall tying of aid might decrease".

But Panaro strongly defends the practice. "Our critics in the OECD still need to show on a theoretical as well as on a practical level that untied aid is more effective and generous", he said. "Secondly, tying aid to procurement allows us to negotiate better terms for the recipient country itself. The funds flow quicker. Thirdly, the decision process is much easier."

With De Michelis as foreign minister, there are reasons to believe that tied aid will continue, and perhaps even increase. □

Martin Burcharth, a Danish journalist, is the Italian correspondent for the Danish financial newspaper Borsen.

international development news

Recycling Cairo's garbage

In the steep, limestone cliffs at the north-eastern edge of Cairo, the *Zabbaleen* have carved out a life—by collecting and sorting the household garbage of one of the world's largest cities.

The *Zabbaleen*, or garbage collectors, include two distinct groups. The *Wahi*, who administer the system—collecting fees from residents and maintaining their historical relationship with landlords; and the *Zarrab*, who work for the *Wahi* and earn their living by collecting, sorting and recycling trash.

by Lois Jensen

Manchiet Nasser is the workplace and home of more than 10,000 *Zabbaleen*. Its air is laced with the smoke of smoldering rubbish and the odour of rotting organic waste. There is a hidden order to the chaos here. Mountains of garbage have been carefully sifted into piles of paper, plastic, glass, metal and bone.

Manchiet Nasser and six other settlements on the outskirts of Cairo are part of one of the oldest and most extensive recycling operations in the world. Today, this traditional system—which relies on donkey carts and thousands of small entrepreneurs who buy used materials—is being brought into the twentieth century.

"In the past we were a despised profession", says Ahmed Moustafa El Rakabawy, who has been involved in the garbage business for over 40 years. "But that is changing now."

Today, Rakabawy is chairman of the board of directors of the Environmental Protection Company (EPC), which includes representatives from both the *Wahi* and *Zarrab* communities, and recently won a bid to mechanize part of Cairo's household garbage collection service. Its 20 trucks now cover two residential areas where 40 donkey carts once operated—in considerably less time.

The city government began looking seriously at the waste problem in the early 1980s. With over 10 million inhabitants growing by 1,000 more each day, Cairo's garbage was rapidly overtaking the system's ability to handle it. The *Zabbaleen* system was unhygienic and crude, said local officials, and the donkey carts unsuitable for a city of Cairo's stature. Moreover, low-income communities—whose debris is not as valuable as that of wealthier neighbourhoods—were not being adequately serviced by the *Zabbaleen*.

The city's initial impulse was to take over the handling of household waste itself. Garbage would be placed in large outdoor containers by residents and picked up by municipal sanitation workers and trucks. Central facilities would be built for composting and processing recyclables.

Such was the plan. But things did not work that way, explains Mounir Neamatalla, head of a local consulting firm that has been working on the waste management issue for the last 10 years. The large imported compactor trucks that the city bought broke down quickly, and spare parts were difficult to find. Moreover, they were awkward on Cairo's sometimes narrow streets, and were designed to compact European waste, not Egyptian refuse, which is far more dense.

UNDP/Lois Jensen

Cairo's Zabbaleen, *or garbage collectors, prove to be more efficient than machines for recycling the city's refuse.*

The main stumbling block, however, was money. "Apart from the initial investment, no one anticipated the exorbitant cost of keeping these trucks and plants operating over the years", says Neamatalla. "When the city realized it would cost at least $57 million a year to run a municipal waste system—equivalent to the annual budget of the city, it became clear that alternatives needed to be found."

Aside from the cost, centralization of recycling could have wiped out thousands of workshops and small industries scattered about the city. Through the *Zabbaleen* network of middlemen, these businesses receive regular supplies of cheap paper, plastic, metal, glass, textiles and bone from which other products are made. Up to 500 factories in Cairo alone use recycled—rather than primary—polymers, which are about half as expensive.

Once convinced about the value of their services, the city agreed that the *Zabbaleen* should be given a chance to modernize. A contract was awarded to the newly-formed EPC for a trial period, and new routes were mapped out. At the same time, the city offered contracts to other private sanitation companies, which were given free access to city landfills for dumping as an incentive.

In the opinion of Neamatalla, the decision was a wise one. While other companies have not been able to beat the *Zabbaleen* in terms of cost or efficiency, they are a source of competition, which has spurred other *Zabbaleen* into action. In the last six months, more than 10 new *Zabbaleen* companies have been launched.

While many *Zabbaleen* are unhappy with government pressure to mechanize, the use of new, specially designed trucks, manufactured domestically, are safer in heavy Cairo traffic than donkey carts. And children who used to guard the donkeys on their fathers' daily routes are now free to attend school.

Full integration of the *Zabbaleen* into the municipal sanitation system will still take another three to five years, says Neamatalla. And it is a transition stage not without risk. Nevertheless, a major transformation has already occurred. The government now accepts the fact that the informal sector has a role in the upgrading process. And the *Zabbaleen* themselves have made a psychological leap. "They know now that they can do it, and that they are perceived as an important part of the system", says Neamatalla. "The tough part is over." □

Lois Jensen is a writer for UNDP's Source *magazine, where this story first appeared.*

Solar energy is hot again

Despite obstacles, the use of photovoltaic (PV) energy is making headway in serving the electricity needs of the rural poor.

The cost of PV modules has gone down dramatically in the past 20 years, from $100 per peakWatt in 1970 to less than $5 now. (PeakWatt refers to the number of kilowatts produced per square meter at maximum solar radiance.) If PV modules, which have a lifetime of over 20 years, were mass-produced, the costs could be reduced to less than $.50 per peakWatt. Due to these falling costs and the recognition of the negative environmental impacts of other technologies such as coal burning power, worldwide sales of PV modules have been growing by 20 to 30 per cent yearly.

Eighty per cent of the world's population lives without electricity, mostly in the rural areas of the Third World, and electrification through the introduction of power grids is not feasible because of the high costs.

by Annelies Barth

There are however drawbacks to solar energy. Often, locally-made batteries are of too low quality and imported batteries are too expensive. Users are also not always well equipped to maintain the PV modules. But this is common to the introduction of any new technology, and it will only be a matter of time before local people can maintain the equipment.

Although diesel generators and kerosene lamps require a smaller initial investment than PV modules, the PV pays for itself after three to five years and requires no further inputs. The maintenance costs of a PV module are also comparatively very low.

Solar energy can be profitable, provided a number of conditions are met. People must get help in purchasing a module and local people must be trained to repair the units. Photovoltaic systems need to be widely dispersed and locally controlled so that people feel more responsible for maintaining the system.

The benefits could be enormous. For example, shops can stay open longer, providing more money for the shopkeeper. Electricity is also vital for hospitals and clinics, to cool vaccines for instance. Such advantages may deter rural people from moving to the cities—and in the long run, slow down the rapid urbanization which has so plagued the Third World in the past few decades. □

Annelies Barth is a freelance journalist based in The Netherlands.

Peru

Coca farmers can't find buyers for alternative crops

Lima—Thousands of Peruvian coca producers, having heeded their government's call to switch from coca cultivation, now

by Zoraida Portillo

find themselves unable to find buyers for their new products. The problem has been compounded by US refusal to supply financial guarantees or purchase promises.

The difficulties are especially severe for those cultivating "achiote", whose fruit is used to make dye and medicines. Farmers in the Huallaga Valley, the world's largest coca-producing area, have been encouraged to plant achiote as a substitute. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control has provided $1.5 million as an advance toward future harvests but farmers, on the eve of harvesting 11 tons of it, are desperately looking for buyers "at any price".

Fran Antmann

Peruvian farmers on their land near Cuzco find it hard to cultivate new crops in the face of unreliable markets.

In spite of the UN donation, there is apparently no market for the plant. The United States, Peru's principal export market, refuses to fix guaranteed prices and has offered no plan for achiote's commercialization.

"We don't even want to think about what will happen when the harvest is completed. It is incredible to us that the United States does not want to buy our products, they being the ones most interested in eliminating the coca cultivation," said José Valladolid, an achiote grower. In response, a US State Department spokesperson said the US had been making efforts to lower trade barriers through its Andean initiative. But, she said, Valladolid is "obviously not growing something we need".

Unlike the achiote growers, tobacco growers have their market guaranteed. Small and large companies have installed 18 tobacco drying stoves in the Huallaga region. The companies buy the tobacco and, in fact, have driven the prices up.

Edgard Arevalo, a farmer in the small jungle town of Tarapoto, decided to switch to tobacco and is happy about the decision. He admits the decision was not based on ethics but to get some relief.

"We coca growers were between a rock and a hard place, pursued by the police on the one hand and by the drug traffickers on the other. The drug traffickers demand production but haven't raised their prices in a long time and each day it gets riskier due to the police repression and the local spies", explained Arevalo.

Though current prices for tobacco are a bit lower than those for coca, tobacco yields per hectare are almost 18 times that of coca, according to Arevalo.

He could not calculate how many people were switching from coca to tobacco but believes that the reactivation of a cigar factory in the area could stimulate tobacco cultivation.

The Tarapoto factory, which exported to Europe, closed its doors just when the coca boom in the early 1980s got underway. All the tobacco growers in the Amazon area naturally switched over to coca, he said.

"There is a real lack of vision on the part of the authorities. I don't think it would take too much of an investment to reopen the factory. . .with the tobacco market guaranteed, who wouldn't grow it?" asked the farmer.

This "lack of vision", so criticized by growers in the Huallaga Valley, has forced some 25,000 coffee growers to cultivate coca. Juan Iglesias, president of the National Federation of Peruvian Coffee Cooperatives (FENOCOCAFE), said that a total of 75,000 acres throughout the jungle region that once produced coffee now cultivate coca. He warned that coca-growing land will continue to expand if the government does not take measures to encourage coffee production.

Discouraged by the lack of markets and low prices, corn and rice growers have jumped on the coca bandwagon as well.

It is calculated that illegal coca growth now covers 500,000 acres of the Huallaga Valley zone. Roger Rumrill, an expert on the subject, estimates that if this "reverse substitution" continues, by the year 2000, 1,250,000 acres will be turned over to coca growth and that it will have a seriously damaging effect on the ecosystem of the Amazon.

Rumrill confirmed that the coca-growing phenomenon will get much worse before it gets better. Discouraged by the lack of markets and low prices, corn and rice growers in the northern region of San Martin, who for a long time resisted the temptation to grow coca, have now jumped on the coca bandwagon as well. As long as the demand for cocaine in the West remains high, farmers in Peru will continue to produce the deadly leaf. IPS □

Nigeria

Poor people's bank takes root

The alluring white paint of the one-story building seems out of place in Ajegunle, a sprawling slum on the outskirts of Lagos. Emblazoned on its entrance are the words, "People's Bank of Nigeria". It is the first "poor man's bank" in Nigeria.

In front of the building, carpenter Mustapha Sanusi jostles for a place in the long queue of other artisans and small-scale entrepreneurs waiting to collect application forms for loans from the bank.

"I need naira 500* to buy equipment to complete a job I'm doing", says Sanusi, who can neither read nor write. A commercial bank had turned down his application for a loan because he could not provide collateral and besides, the money he needed was "too small".

by Kingsley Moghaiu

The Nigerian government says the People's Bank is an indirect scheme "for income generation and income redistribution" among the country's poor, many of whom cannot get credit from commercial banks for reasons similar to Sanusi's.

No collateral is needed for the loans, and apart from a service charge of 5 per cent, no interest is charged. Repayments begin two weeks after the loan is taken, with a total repayment period of one year.

Poor Nigerians, who have borne the brunt of the country's Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), have seen their living standards deteriorate as the naira has been devalued by 80 per cent. Subsidies on fuel and utilities have been withdrawn, leading to price increases in all sectors of the economy. The minimum wage still remains at its pre-SAP level of naira 125 a month.

Against this backdrop, the People's Bank, which started in 1989 and now has branches in many of Nigeria's 21 states—is seen as a godsend for poor Nigerians.

Tai Solarin, an outspoken critic of the Government who has been appointed the Bank's chairman, said he was happy that "the government has realized the structures operating in the country have not served the purpose of the ordinary people".

The Nigerian People's Bank seems to be inspired by the success of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, which operates in over 7,000 Bangladeshi villages and serves the banking needs of some 300,000 households in the country's rural areas.

Despite the rave reviews that have welcomed the "poor man's bank" in Nigeria, the scheme has been dogged by criticism. "How do you make it self-sustaining, or is it supposed to be a Father Christmas?", asks Claude Esekody, a Shell Oil Company management trainee.

Ade Ojo, dean of the Business School at the University of Lagos, said that the People's Bank "is just a gimmick" to pacify poor Nigerians who are feeling the pinch of the SAP. He believes that there is no authoritative evidence of the bank's viability.

Aside from the criticism that the maximum lending ceiling is too small, there are also fears that loan recipients will default on their repayments, leading to a collapse of the bank. This view is rejected by Bola Ajibola, attorney general and minister of justice. "Poor people are more honest than the rich", he says. "The percentage of loan repayment will be higher than in our normal banks."

The figures so far support Ajibola. An excellent repayment rate of 113 per cent has been recorded by the bank. "The rate of repayment is fantastic", says Maria Sokenu, the bank's national coordinator, adding that the loan beneficiaries don't wait for a year before they pay back "because they know that as soon as they pay back, they become eligible for a bigger loan".

To obtain a loan, applicants must belong to a professional or trade group of 15 people. The group communicates to the bank the names of its members eligible for a loan, and acts as an informal guarantor. Unless the loan is repaid, no other members may receive loans.

The Nigerian government is so impressed with the bank's success it has approved an extra 195 million naira for its activities. The bank plans to establish 170 new branches in 1990 alone. Its success has attracted the attention of the African Development Bank (AfDB), which plans to inject funds into it.

Analysts say that banking for the poor is an "economic imperative" for a developing country such as Nigeria where most of the population live below the poverty line. To overcome prevalent poverty, argues Lagos economic analyst O.B.A. Obanla, economic opportunities for the poor must be enlarged. "That's the essence of the People's Bank and it's a welcome development."

Newslink Africa □

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* *naira 7.81 = $1.00*

India

Cinemas fall prey to video pirates

New Delhi—The film industry in India, faced by competition from video and television, may be fading away in the 1990s. India's vast rural middle class has begun plugging in the video for cheap and convenient entertainment. This has sounded the death knell for nearly 1,000 cinemas, which have had to close down because of thinning crowds and mounting costs.

The main competition affecting cinemas is the nearly 200,000 video libraries, many of which rent and sell pirated movies and are flush with profits. Film distributors say only 10 per cent of India's video film business operates within existing copyright laws. Video pirates control the rest of the burgeoning market.

by Anjoo Mohan

The piracy is so bad that the international entertainment industry now accuses India of being one of the world's biggest copyright offenders. A central government committee appointed to investigate the problem last year stated, "Video piracy is accorded a low priority and the legal procedures are too slow in dealing with the few cases that come up."

P.L. Chandha, local representative of Warner Brothers, a major US film maker, says: "It takes months to get clearance for a single title and by that time, the pirates have already got the film." The most up-to-date films find their way onto the shelves of video libraries within days of their release and most suspect they come from film pirates in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Vinod Nagpal, who owns a chain of video libraries here, began with an investment of only $1,500. He now rakes in about $15,000 a month from a largely illegitimate business. Says Nagpal: "We offer good prints of the latest movies which regulars lap up. Few families want to go through the hassle of organizing an expedition to the theatres to watch Jackie Chan when they can get Tom Cruise at home."

Going to the movies and eating ice cream during intermission used to be a rare treat for the average Indian. But cash is no longer a problem for the world's largest middle class population of over 300 million.

Even among the very poor, people pool their money to hire videos, television sets and films, taking in as many movies as they can in a packaged 12-hour shift. In remote hilly areas of the country, small video parlours have regular film screenings while in industrial townships XX-rated films are shown in special dens.

Bombay's dream merchants can still manage to get long lines outside the big-screen theatres, but the number of box office hits has been steadily dropping.

Last year, of the 130-plus major Hindi films released, only three made respectable profits for the exhibitors. They say that a 60 per cent entertainment tax leaves them with little profit to invest in upgrading theatres and booking better releases. Furthermore, operating expenses have shot up by 1,600 per cent since 1975, while ticket rates have only doubled.

But there's more to this than meets the eye, knowledgeable observers say. Collusion between Bombay's film moguls, exhibitors and video business sharks cannot be ruled out.

And, unlike cinema, video is eminently suited to the middle class lifestyle. Children, parents and grandparents can make separate demands for entertainment and get satisfaction.

The video boom seems certain to ensure that the dimmed lights and dancing colours of Indian movies go out forever in more and more theatres. □

Tanzania

Mining the giant cassava?

Lukas Safarimoja stumbled on a strange cassava plant while hunting in the bush 36 years ago. Now in his 80s, he is worried that he will die before fellow Tanzanians appreciate the enormity of his discovery.

"This kind of cassava produces 20 times as much food as an ordinary one", Safarimoja says proudly. Standing beside one of the giant tubers, its massive arms radiating out from a bulbous centre, he is dwarfed by its tallest limb.

For seven years, Safarimoja kept track of the cassava, transplanting it to various places as he lived a nomadic hunting life. It was not until 1961, when he settled in a village, that he realized just how big the cassava could grow.

The villagers of Visiga, in the coastal region of Tanzania, call him "the saviour" because they credit his discovery with saving them from hunger. Cassava is a staple food in Tanzania and is regarded as a "famine crop" that will ensure survival even if other crops fail.

One acre of Safarimoja's variety yields as much food as 15 acres of ordinary cassava, says village agricultural officer Kombo Ahmed. Cassava can grow in a wide range of soil types, and this variety has proved even more drought-resistant than usual.

"It is imperative that the nation undertake detailed research of this cassava. It could mean a solution to the food shortages Tanzania always faces", says Ahmed. The only drawback, he says, is that the area taken up by the tubers could spark rows between neighbouring farmers because the plant can grow up to four metres across.

Michael Mashelle, regional agriculture and livestock development officer, said that although his department knows about the giant cassava it has no funds for research. The value of cassava to Tanzania and Africa as a whole is certainly great, Mashelle said, noting that cassava provides more than half the calorie needs of 200 million Africans.

The variety discovered by Safarimoja has been dubbed *mkukumkuku*—"by force"—because its massive size makes it difficult to uproot. This feature, Safarimoja says, helps prevent theft: even wart-hogs find making off with it a challenge.

Lucas Lukumbo/Panos

New engine runs on vegetable oil

A Dutch company plans to produce a new car engine that could revolutionize motor traffic through the use of vegetable oils for fuel, an invention which could be of great importance to Third World countries.

To many car manufacturers, the idea of running engines purely on vegetable oil is utopian. But the makers of the "Elsbett Environmental Engine" believe they can make this particular dream a reality.

Tests have shown that the thermodynamic efficiency of the Elsbett combustion engine for cars is much higher than that of traditional car engines.

by Bikash Chowdhury

According to spokesperson J. Behrens of Moeken's Montage Bedrijf (MMB), the company which plans to manufacture the engine, the combined costs of production and manufacture of the vegetable oil fuel are lower than the total costs of fossil fuels, making the mileage rate lower than that for gasoline and diesel, even without price subsidies for vegetable oils.

And unlike fossil fuels, vegetable oil is free of sulphur and heavy metals, making the Elsbett engine a potential solution to some of the environmental problems linked with road traffic.

The oil is environmentally safe and can be used as foodstuff or fertilizer. If vegetable oil was to be released into rivers or seas because of a tanker leak, the fish would feast on it.

Depending upon the market, MMB aims to produce 5,000 engines in the first y to be raised to 30,000 in the fourth y

"In the foreseeable future, easily ploitable mineral oil reserves will be hausted and mineral oil prices will go said Behrens. "Morever, damage caus the environment due to the use of the f fuel is on the rise. It is time to look fo alternative fuel, free from environme hazards, before the finite fossil fuel is hausted." The company has been un to start production because it lacks money to set up a production line, an far government financing bodies have b unwilling to provide the necessary cap

Behrens hinted that MMB might shif project to Ireland if the Dutch author refuse to show interest. "Ireland want have environment-friendly industry they are willing to put up a lot of money it. However, we are now working in private sector to see how people can fina us. We have met so much private thusiasm, that we may need no more from the government", he said.

There is a potential market abroad for engine, particularly in tropical and devel ing countries. Such countries facing seri ecological threats can be an ideal market the engine, that would be beneficial to th both economically and environmentally. donesia for example has already show keen interest in the Elsbett engine and approached MMB.

Says Behrens, "Taking into considera the overall energy, health, economic and vironmental aspects, vegetable oil can the fuel of the future."

the UN system at work worldwide

world review

economic and social information

development

South Commission: 'We're on our own'

The South Commission has published its long-awaited study that charts a course for self-reliant and sustainable growth for the developing world. Released in Caracas in August, the report, entitled *The Challenge to the South*,* is intended as a guide for developing nations.

The authors, all Third World leaders, argue that solutions to the precarious position of developing countries lie in radical reforms of institutions, economic relations and politics—in short, an overhaul of the prevailing attitudes in both domestic and international relations.

A comprehensive analysis of the missed opportunities of the past, the report also provides an overview of possible strategies for the future, citing four key goals for the Third World: putting people at the centre of the development process, promoting greater self-reliance within countries, enhancing South-South cooperation in all aspects of economic and social development and improving relations with the North. The Commission hopes that the document will become a catalyst that could lead the Third World toward sustainable growth.

The South Commission, chaired by former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere, was formed at the Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Zimbabwe in 1986 to undertake the study. It consists of 27 Third World leaders including bankers, economists, intellectuals, and religious and political figures from Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Commenting on the significance of the South Commission's report, Cuban president Fidel Castro said from Havana that it reflected "the point of view of the South, with the vision of the South as its point of reference. For the first time there is a collective analysis from that perspective."

Why the lost decade?

The report attributes the current deterioration of social and governmental institutions and widespread political instability to the current economic crisis. During the 1980s, it argues, "governments and political systems found themselves rejected and their legitimacy challenged for their inability to provide basic services and goods to their populations".

The Commission criticizes the way in which Southern countries have copied Northern economic models in their attempts to eradicate hunger, ignorance and illness, without taking their specific circumstances into account. Nevertheless, "fast and sustained economic growth is an inescapable imperative for the South". But in order for people-centred development to occur, that growth "has to be oriented so as to raise the income and productivity of the poor and to promote a sustainable use of the scarce natural resources and the environment".

The report criticizes the North for failing to intervene when Southern nations were hit by high foreign debt and low export prices. But it also cites domestic factors which could have forestalled the decline including a better balance between investment and consumption, more equitable distribution of goods, greater decentralization and more popular participation in the development process.

Yet maybe the biggest casualty of the "lost decade" of the 1980s, states the report, was the undermining of South-South solidarity. To rectify this it calls for the creation of a "South Secretariat" to coordinate South-South cooperation as well as to present a united front in negotiations with the North. It also advocates regular meetings of heads of state from the South, and a commitment from the North to support such efforts in the interests of international peace and security.

Southern fears

While the Commission recognizes the South's responsibility to protect the environment, it notes that "the way the North is attempting to define [environmental] problems introduces an element of potential North-South conflict that should be avoided". Environmental issues cannot be used as a pretext to limit national sovereignty or development priorities, it says, adding that "the North has already used a great quantity of the planet's ecological capital" for its own development, and must now restrict its appetite.

Furthermore, the authors emphasize that ecological disasters stem not only from poverty and financial exploitation but above all from development and consumption models developed in the North—a sort of negative cultural transfer. Until the South can chart its own path to sustainable development it will continue to replicate the mistakes of industrialized countries.

"The North is very powerful, but also very arrogant", commented Julius Nyerere on behalf of the Commission members. "It speaks about democracy and human rights and claims to be the champion of these universal principles, but there is no democracy in international relations and it pays little attention to the most fundamental human right—the right to live."

Reflecting Southern fears, the report warns that the improvement in East-West relations could produce brutal forms of extended political domination by the industrialized nations over the developing world.

"While the tensions between the superpowers are being reduced, a situation could emerge in which they believe that they can operate more freely to promote what they consider to be their essential interests in areas they consider to be strategic", without considering the needs and aspirations of the people of the South.

It would be a mistake to rely on support and models from the developed world, but this does not mean breaking North-South ties, says the Commission. Rather, there is a need to change North-South relations from exploitation and subordination to mutual benefit and partnership. However, to achieve this objective it will be essential to fulfil the goal of solidarity in the South first.

Summing up the feelings of the Commission members Venezuelan president Carlos Andres Pérez said that there was a need for "the nations of the South to know one another, to value our capacity for negotiation, to be able to appreciate what we are and what we mean in the world context. One of the great goals of the South Commission has been to discover ourselves".

Luis Córdova and Alejandro Kirk

* The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission *is available in English for £5.95 from Oxford University Press, Distribution Services, Saxon Way West, Corby NN18 9ES, UK. The French edition from Economica, 49 rue Hericart, 75015 Paris, France; the Spanish from Fondo de Cultura Económica, Apartado Postal 44976, Mexico City, Mexico (no price yet for French or Spanish editions). Arabic and Chinese editions will be available later.*

Rich-poor gap likely to widen during 1990s

New York (DIESA)—Buoyant international trade and investment, a tighter world energy situation, growing unemployment and rising illiteracy in the 1990s are forecast in the *Global Outlook 2000*,* a new study released by the UN Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA).

According to the report, the LDCs and the heavily indebted developing countries "are likely to have negligible growth or an absolute decline".

The report draws on data compiled over the last 30 years to develop a baseline scenario of what the world economy would look like at the end of the century. It provides an economic, social and environmental perspective to the year 2000. It updates a study done in 1988.

At a press conference, Goran P. Ohlin, UN assistant secretary-general, warned that if the world economy continued to move on separate tracks for the rich and the poor, "it is very difficult to see how it will remain stable".

Developing countries will have stronger growth, reaching 4.6 per cent a year. However, the report says, much of the growth will occur in the newly industrializing nations of Asia which are expected to average 6.1 per cent a year.

Latin America and the Caribbean are expected to average 2.9 per cent over the decade. But when measured in terms of GDP per capita, growth for the region will be only 1.0 per cent.

Sub-Saharan Africa will also continue to lag behind other regions, averaging 3.2 per cent during the decade. But the gains are wiped out, in per capita terms, showing a negative growth of -0.1 per cent.

Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, which grew by only 1.9 per cent in 1985-90, is expected to show growth of 3.6 per cent a year in the 1990s. This improvement will be due mainly to the reallocation of investment to consumer-oriented sectors, the report says, noting that growth could reach as much as 4 to 5 per cent because of recent political changes and related proposals for economic reform.

Inequalities in international economic relations, coupled with inappropriate economic policies in many developed and developing countries, the study predicts, will continue to cause environmental degradation and limit development. Growth derived from rapid resources depletion will continue to compound environmental problems.

The report also warns that "chronic food shortages" are expected to continue in some developing countries which will need to import about 100 million tons of cereal a year.

Dealing with social issues of the 1990s, the report said urban populations in the developing countries will continue to grow faster than the general population, causing problems of sanitation and housing.

Much more threatening to future North-South trade than disparities in income levels, the report says, is the widening technology gap between developed and developing countries.

* Global Outlook 2000 *is available at $19.95 from United Nations Publications, Sales Section, Room DC2-853, New York, NY 10017, or Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 10, or through local bookstores (Sales No. E.90.II.C.3).*

World Development Report 1990

Washington (World Bank)—Reducing the level of absolute poverty still rampant in many developing countries is the theme of this year's *World Development Report 1990**, published by the World Bank. The *Report* investigates the impact of aid policies, adjustment measures, and the international economic environment on efforts to eliminate poverty.

In his introduction, World Bank president Barber Conable sums up the *Report's* conclusions by saying that "the most effective way of achieving rapid and politically sustainable improvements in the quality of life for the poor has been through . . .the pursuit of a pattern of growth that ensures productive use of the poor's most abundant asset—labour. . .and the widespread provision to the poor of basic social services, especially primary education, primary health care and family planning".

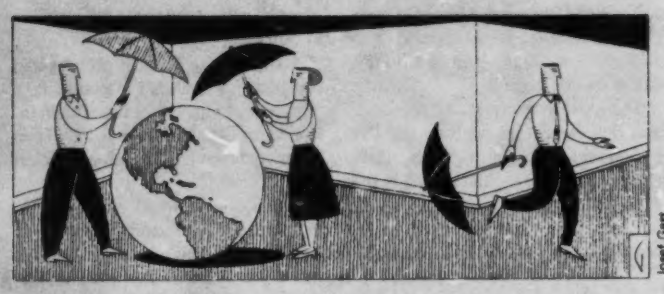
Despite great progress in combatting poverty in recent years, over 1 billion people still live below the poverty line, says the *Report*. The *Report*, like its predecessors, has a detailed annex of selected economic and social indicators for over 120 countries and is considered one of the most comprehensive resources available on Third World development.

* *Copies of the* World Development Report *1990 can be obtained for US$14.95 from the World Bank, Publications Department, 1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA.*

Liberia joins list of LDCs

Geneva (UNIS)—The UN Economic and Social Council unanimously decided on 19 July to include Liberia in the list of least developed countries, bringing to 42 the number of countries in that category. [See the special supplement of *DF*, Mar-Apr 1990, for background information on the LDCs.] The Council recommended that the UN General Assembly request the Secretary-General to enable Liberia to participate in the second UN conference on the least developed countries (Paris, 3-14 September).

Speaking after the decision, Amelia Ward said her country's request for LDC status had been prompted by the extreme adverse difficulties confronting the economy. The unfortunate crisis in Liberia had resulted in loss of life and destruction of infrastructure vital for development. She said the challenge of rehabilitation and reconstruction would be tackled seriously and the required economic measures put in place to revive the economy.



ozone

Fund to combat ozone depletion

India and China have joined the fight to help mend the gaping hole in the ozone layer, the protective shield above the earth that screens out dangerous ultraviolet rays.

After expressing serious reservations, they agreed to sign the Montreal Protocol at a June meeting in London after receiving guarantees that the industrialized world would help them adapt to the changes. The Protocol, first signed in 1987, calls for a 50 per cent reduction in chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by 1995, an 85 per cent reduction by 1997, and a total ban by the next decade. CFCs are believed to be the biggest culprits in ozone depletion.

New Zealand, Australia, Canada and 10 European countries went a step further at the meeting and pledged to phase out production and consumption of all CFCs by 1997. The Protocol is to be reviewed in 1992.

By including key Third World nations, the pact is an important step forward in ozone protection. In 1986 developing countries accounted for only 15 per cent of world consumption of CFCs, but without controls this is expected to rise to 29 per cent by the year 2000. The demand for CFCs is increasing, with nine developing countries either producing or planning to produce their own CFCs—mainly for use in refrigerators, air conditioners, spray-cans and solvents.

Because of this rising demand, any agreement to phase out the chemical which does not have the participation of developing countries would be pointless. Additionally, it is the Third World that stands to lose the most if the ozone layer is destroyed, through an increased strain on health-care facilities and damage to crops.

To help developing countries adapt their industries to CFC alternatives, industrialized countries agreed to set up a $240 million fund, to be administered by the World Bank and the United Nations Environment and Development Programmes (UNEP and UNDP). Essentially, the fund will be used to convert factories producing CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances to ozone-friendly chemicals, train personnel and carry out country studies to determine the needs of developing nations.

Responding to Third World fears, delegates made it clear that this money would not be diverted from other aid funds. India and China will receive $40 million in the first three years of the fund, but India alone estimates its bill for replacing CFCs over the next 20 years will be $560 million.

Environmentalists criticized the agreement. They say governments are gambling with the future by giving industry another 10 years to produce millions more tonnes of CFCs. Fiona Weir, of the environmental lobby group Friends of the Earth, said: "We do not know how much more the ozone layer can stand. We're facing a few dangerous decades ahead."

In other circles the pact is being hailed as a major breakthrough in international cooperation to clean up the environment. And, says Mostafa Tolba, executive director of UNEP, this accord has laid out the groundwork for future international agreements on other environmental issues, such as global warming. The meeting represents, he said, "a new chapter in the history of international relations".

Sue Montgomery/Gemini

health

Chernobyl's children hit Cuban beaches

Havana—In a gesture of solidarity, this Caribbean country is playing host to children injured by the world's worst nuclear disaster. Apart from adults, about 10,000 Soviet children were affected by radiation leaked by the thermonuclear plant in Chernobyl in the Soviet Union in April 1986.

Last March, 139 of these children went to Cuba for treatment of illnesses caused by the release of radioactive isotopes—iodine, celsius and plutonium—into the atmosphere.

"This is a small country but it has a great heart", Irina Ivasenko told Cuban president Fidel Castro, who received the children at the airport. Ivasenko is president of the Chernobyl Children's Association which she founded in October 1987.

Most of the children are from Kiev, capital of the Soviet province of the Ukraine, and the rest from neighbouring towns. A few mothers accompanied the children whose ages range from 3 to 15 years.

The Soviet Union's extensive public health network has been unable to cope with the sheer number of people affected by the disaster. The young patients began arriving in Cuba after a request by the Marxist-Leninist Youth Movement of the Ukraine. The group petitioned the WHO and various countries, asking for aid to the victims of Chernobyl.

Soviet and Cuban doctors examined 600 children to determine whether they had been affected by radiation, before sending them to Cuba for treatment.

Shortly after arrival the children were taken to the José Manuel Márquez Pediatric Hospital for treatment.

Orlando Rodríguez, deputy director of the hospital, explained that several children required surgery. One child had a nodule removed from his thyroid gland, and four more are due to have similar operations. Another had a splenetic cyst and has had his spleen removed.

Rodríguez says the children are in good spirits. "They're doing very well, and getting lots of affection and attention from the people looking after them."

In addition to the medical treatment, a collective birthday party was organized for the children and they were taken on a day trip to Varadero Beach, two hours' drive from Havana. They were also given a recital by renowned Soviet violinist Igor Frolok.

Ninety-eight children have received the full course of treatment and have been sent back to the Soviet Union. It is estimated that a total of 10,000 children will eventually be treated in Cuba. Initially, 1,000 were expected to come for treatment.

In July, Denmark welcomed about 100 Soviet teenaged victims of Chernobyl who arrived for a month-long vacation. The children, aged 13 to 15, spent time in outdoor scout camps and stayed with Danish families.

Hundreds of children in the Zlynka District near Chernobyl show symptoms of serious radiation poisoning. Many of them have come to Cuba and some Western countries for treatment.

Under a project of the UNESCO, about 1,200 Chernobyl-area children had summer holidays in Western European countries.

Women's Feature Service

More children being immunized

Geneva (WHO)—The World Health Organization (WHO) recently announced that over 70 per cent of the world's children under one year of age are now covered by immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases. The figures were released by the WHO Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) which was created in 1974 to reduce childhood morbidity and mortality through immunization.

In mid-1990, immunization coverage for the world reached 74 per cent for a third dose of polio vaccine for children under one year of age. Other global immunization figures are 72 per cent for third-dose coverage for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT), 81 per cent coverage for the BCG vaccine against tuberculosis, and 68 per cent coverage for the measles vaccine.

EPI said it was encouraged by the immunization coverage achieved so far. The goal is to reach at least 80 per cent of the world's children with all the EPI vaccines by the end of 1990. EPI said it believed WHO is nearing that goal.

With such achievements, the world now stands poised to eradicate polio by the year 2000, reduce measles cases by 90 per cent and eliminate neonatal tetanus by 1995.

trade

South-South trade recovering

Santiago (ECLAC)—At the end of the 1980s South-South trade rose to a value of $150 billion, according to the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The increase is modest, however, when compared to North-South trade and is largely concentrated in a few categories of goods and certain geographical areas.

During the 1970s and early 1980s South-South trade showed positive growth, becoming the most dynamic component of world trade, with growth rates very much higher than those achieved by other trade flows.

In 198[illegible] however, that trend was interrupted by, among other factors, the drop in fuel prices, the external debt crisis and recession in the developing countries.

Recent increases in world trade have been concentrated in the North and in the newly industrializing countries. ECLAC officials maintain that South-South trade will prosper only if developing countries can overcome problems in their external sectors, resume economic growth, restore previous integration arrangements and re-establish the commercial ties which once existed among them. Otherwise, they warn, the South is in danger of being left out of this new growth scenario.

conservation

Ban on whale hunting

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) maintained the ban on commercial whale hunting at its annual meeting in July in The Netherlands.

Environmental groups called the decision a victory for the whales, but major whaling nations like Iceland, Norway and Japan threatened to quit the commission if the ban is upheld again at next year's annual meeting. Twenty-nine nations attended the IWC meeting, which came at the end of the five-year moratorium on commercial whale hunting.

Delegates from Iceland, Norway and Japan announced that a final decision to withdraw from the commission will be made at next year's meeting in Iceland and will depend on whether the moratorium will continue. Should they withdraw, the IWC would then be composed exclusively of non-whaling nations.

The three countries had called for a lifting of the ban on the minke whale which they said could be culled without endangering the species, but the IWC turned down the request.

Aside from an extension of the moratorium, delegates at the meeting decided to use the coming year to gather information on the number of sea mammals in the oceans. The count will include porpoises, dolphins and other small, whale-type mammals which are not protected by international treaties. Roughly 500,000 are caught or killed in the process of other fishing activities each year.

Mac Van Dinther/IPS

nuclear

Draft code on nuclear waste disposal adopted

Vienna (IAEA)—An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expert group has adopted a draft code which establishes principles guiding the international movement of radioactive waste. It will be considered by the IAEA General Conference this September.

The code was prompted by international concern over the possibility of radioactive waste being dumped in developing countries. While no case of radioactive waste dumping has come to light so far, the code is intended to provide preventive measures against any uncontrolled international movement and disposal of radioactive waste.

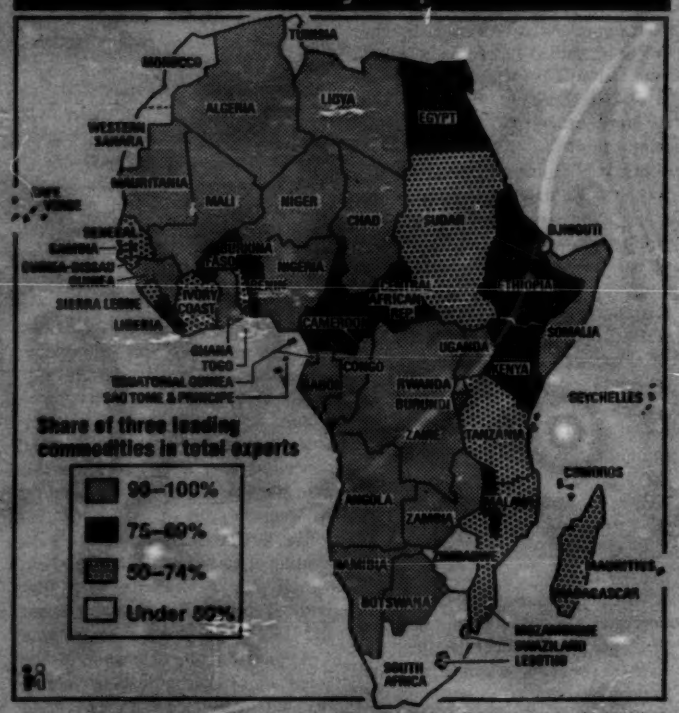
The code states that all stages of

radioactive waste movements be undertaken in a manner consistent with international safety standards and take place only when authorized by all states involved, with prior notification and consent of the sending, receiving and transit states. It also stipulates that all states should have the administrative and technical capacity, as well as the required regulatory structure, to fulfil their responsibilities under existing international safety standards.

efforts to establish or re-establish international commodity agreements. A greater privatization of commodities production, strengthening of intra-African trade and increased credit from the World Bank and IMF for countries undergoing structural adjustment are also urged. These efforts must be supplemented, however, by increased aid flows and debt relief for the continent.

The report stresses that it does not intend to set a casual tone of optimism

Africa: commodity exports



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

commodities

Revitalization of African commodities

Reversing decades of policy-making which has underlined the need to move away from commodity production, a controversial UN report argues that African countries must first revitalize their commodity sectors if they are to transform their economies and place them on a path of sustainable growth.

The report, *Africa's Commodity Problems: Towards a Solution** by an independent Group of Experts chaired by Malcolm Fraser, former prime minister of Australia, argues that "real growth opportunities exist in primary commodity production and trade". To take advantage of these requires a major shift in attitudes and priorities on the part of African governments and the international community.

Though many international agencies forecast a continuing decline in the terms of trade for African countries, the report expresses relative optimism over the prospects for raw material prices, citing new opportunities in Asia and Eastern Europe. One way for African producers to take advantage of these, says the report, is to increase or indicate a panacea for Africa's many economic problems. In the past, the advice and practice of policy-making in Africa have underlined a need to move away from commodity production and invest in other, more dynamic, activities. Yet this will only be made possible, the report argues, by paying more attention to commodities. The calamities of recent years have, paradoxically enough, created the conditions in which the necessary radical reorientation of development policy towards using rather than neglecting the commodity sector is now possible.

Africa Recovery

* Africa's Commodity Problems: Towards a Solution *can be obtained by writing the UNCTAD Secretariat, Task Force on UN-PAAERD, United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.*

africa

Democracy, not pluralism, says Nyerere

Dar es Salaam—Former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere said pluralism is not necessary in Africa. What is needed is more freedom and democracy.

Nyerere, the recently retired leader of Tanzania's sole and ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party, said African governments should give the people "real democracy" and freedom to decide for their own. "People must be satisfied and feel that there is democracy", the 68-year-old Nyerere told members of the general council of the Tanzanian Women's Organization (UWT), gathered recently to discuss economic development in the continent, women's emancipation and the political and economic changes in Eastern Europe.

Nyerere said democracy and freedom are lacking in most African countries. He described pressure by some Western countries on African governments to introduce multiparty systems as "rubbish". "Even in Europe some countries do not have democracy", he said. In fact, in some of these nations, oppression and suppression still take place.

Nyerere said the North is wrong to pressure African countries to have multiparty systems as a conditionality for loans and assistance. "It is not necessary to have more parties. What is needed is democracy and freedom", emphasized Nyerere, who introduced the multiparty debate in this East African nation in February. He said whatever parties are formed in the country, they must believe in socialism, national unity and must be secular.

The debate has been met with mixed opinions. Some Tanzanians are in favour of a more democratic one-party system while others think that other parties should be formed to act as a watchdog on the ruling party.

latin america

Poverty leaps in 1980s

Santiago—Poverty in Latin America increased in the 1980s, affecting 183 million people, or 44 per cent of the region's population, according to a study carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Gert Rosenthal, executive secretary of ECLAC, said that in relation to 1970, the number of "poor" people increased by 71 million. The "needy" rose by 28 million, reaching 88 million people by the end of last decade.

A previous study in 1970 established that in that year, 40 per cent of homes were below the poverty line, and the percentage fell to 35 per cent in 1980, increasing to 37 per cent in 1986. "Poor" homes are those with incomes under two times the cost of a basic food basket, and those who cannot buy one even if they use all of their income to do so.

The study is based on statistics from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela—countries that represent 85 per cent of the region's population and about 91 per cent of its production.

Pierre den Baas, resident representative of UNDP, said that the study forms part of the project aimed at overcoming poverty. It is financed with $4.5 million—10 per cent of UNDP's funds for the region.

The governments of 10 countries and other agencies such as the UN Population Fund and the UN Children's Fund collaborated in the research.

asia

Longer life expectancy for Asia/Pacific

Bangkok (UNIS)—Almost all developing countries in Asia and the Pacific recorded improvements in average life expectancy, infant mortality and crude death rates during the 1980s, according to the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1989*, issued by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). However, millions remained malnourished, illiterate and inadequately served by health facilities.

In 1987, several countries recorded an increase in life expectancy of five years or more over their 1980 levels. Impressive improvements were achieved in Indonesia and Nepal with a seven-year increase each, followed by India, Malaysia and Myanmar at six years each.

Infant mortality rates declined in all developing countries of the region. In some cases, the decline was dramatic. For example, in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Papua New Guinea, infant mortality rates fell from 108 to 65 per 1,000, and from 105 to 62, respectively.

The *Survey* also noted that countries in the Asia and Pacific region are fighting a losing battle against the scourge of adult illiteracy. The absolute number of illiterates in the region increased from 1970-1985 by over 80 million, bringing the total number to 618 million by 1985.

population

Reforms hinder population activities

Structural adjustment programmes in sub-Saharan Africa have negatively affected population programmes in the continent, according to Nafis Sadik, executive director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The adjustment programmes have led to a deterioration of social services in Africa, she explained recently, particularly in the areas of education and health.

The adjustment programmes, sponsored by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, have hindered the smooth provision of contraceptives in hospitals and health centres, according to Dr. Sadik. "Unless immediate measures are taken to reverse the situation, the population growth in the continent will continue to climb."

A shortage of books, teachers and equipment is seriously affecting most African countries, because funds intended for the social sectors have been redirected, the UNFPA chief pointed out.

Despite national campaigns to publicize family planning activities in Africa, awareness among Africans is still below 16 per cent. Dr. Sadik implored educators and government planners to increase that rate to 75 per cent by 2010. Population growth, now running at 4 per cent annually in Africa, is one of the major problems affecting the continent.

Paul Chintowa/IPS

crime

Crime fighters meet in Havana

Hundreds of ambassadors and representatives of international and non-governmental organizations joined police chiefs, wardens, criminologists, attorneys, judges and ministers of interior and justice in a global exercise against crime—the Eighth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

They assembled in Havana, Cuba, from 27 August to 7 September, as part of an international effort to slow the growth of criminality, from petty or violent street crime to increasingly sophisticated "white collar" crimes and organized crime syndicates.

The Congress, "International cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice for the 21st century", dealt with international terrorism and organized crime, especially drug trafficking, juvenile justice conditions for prisoners worldwide, and community-based alternatives to traditional imprisonment. It also focused on combating crimes against the cultural patrimony and the environment, governmental corruption and organized crime, money laundering and financial fraud.

Continuing the process of humanizing criminal justice begun in 1955 at the first congress (Geneva), participants sought to replace the traditional approach to criminal justice with a more comprehensive one that takes into account social, political and economic factors. Hence, overcrowded prisons and the spread of AIDS among inmates lent particular poignancy to debates on prison management. Likewise, preventive measures, particularly for juveniles, were stressed.

Also on the agenda were 14 major texts, including five model treaties on: prevention of crime against cultural heritage, extradition, mutual assistance in judicial matters, transfer of supervision of offenders, and transfer of criminal proceedings. Other texts dealt with the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials, prevention of juvenile delinquency, guidelines for lawyers and prosecutors, and a guide for practitioners dealing with victims.

Population Perspectives

Safe motherhood and RU-486: great expectations

On a hot sultry day, a women's meeting was in progress in Pimpale Jagtap—a small village of the Vadu Rural Health Project of the K.E.M. Hospital, Pune, Maharashtra State, India. Into that small room walked Professor Sune Bergstrom, the Nobel Laureate and father of prostaglandins *(see box)*, accompanied by the project staff. The professor sat on the floor with the rest of us. The women were excited and pleased to explain the work they were doing in primary health care. They asked and answered numerous questions.

After some time, the professor hesitatingly asked them that if they had delayed periods would they use pills to bring on menstruation? At once, they put out their hands for the pills. He advised them that they should go home, think about it and talk to their husbands and then make their decision. The community health worker, who was from the same village, stood up and said: "That is not at all necessary. There are three women in this room who have missed their periods; they want the pills."

This spontaneous response to a male foreigner by illiterate village women revealed, more succinctly than any research project would have, the need and acceptability of such a pill in India, although admittedly a small remote village in the heart of rural Maharashtra does not reflect all of India. Of course, at the present time we have no such pill to distribute, but we hope it will come—and soon.

It is unbelievable but true that while millions of women die or are maimed due to back-street abortions, a safe and well-researched drug like RU-486 has caused a rumpus between drug manufacturers, politicians, bureaucrats and women's groups. As the developing world will experience a 25 per cent increase in the number of women aged 15-24 in the 1990s, the demand for abortion services will only increase.

by Dr. Banoo Coyagi

Three-quarters of Third World women live in countries where abortion is legal, at least on health grounds. Take the example of India, where abortion has been permitted since 1972 for a broad range of health reasons including contraceptive failure. As of 1982, an estimated four to six million abortions were performed outside approved facilities compared with an estimated 376,000 which were legal abortions.

It is the same in many Third World countries. The services provided are inaccessible, not only spatially, but socially and culturally. Among the myriad reasons why women do not use the services available, the most important deterrent is lack of confidentiality and anonymity in an official abortion clinic.

UNICEF/Balcombe

Even in India, where abortion is legal, demand for RU-486 is expected to be very heavy.

RU-486, or mifepristone, is extremely effective in inducing early abortion when associated with prostaglandins. The significance of the combination is not that it is safer or more effective than surgical methods—although the lower risk of infection certainly makes it more attractive medically—but the fact that it can be used in relative privacy and so is more acceptable culturally.

The potential use for RU-486 in the developing world is enormous. It can be used on an out-patient basis by trained paramedics, backed up by medical personnel, including surgeons and anaesthetists who are in such short supply. Logistically the ideal would be if both the drug RU-486 and slow-releasing prostaglandins could be given simultaneously.

There are other uses for RU-486 and prostaglandins in reproductive medicine. Mifepristone acts in dilating the cervix, thereby facilitating delivery of still births and in cases of prolonged or difficult labour, and in inducing labour.

Most of the research on mifepristone and allied drugs has been done so far in the First World by the World Health Organization's Special Programme on Research and Development in Human Reproduction, and researchers in France, Sweden, Hungary and Britain. Some trials have been carried out in China, and are now starting in India at my hospital. There are many questions that need answers—the minimal optimal dose, the interval between RU-486 and prostaglandins, the safety and efficacy in anaemic women, the acceptability, the logistics, and so on.

Other questions that Third World governments will need to have answered are public sector costs, supply on the large scale required, and transfer of technology.

At the NGO Forum of the UN Women's Conference in Nairobi in 1985, the Declaration of Third World women from 26 countries concluded: "Women in the Third World demand access to all methods of family planning, including abortion as back-up method, and assert the right to choose ourselves what is best for us in our situations." By protecting our lives, we protect the lives of children that we genuinely want and can care for. This is our concept of "Pro-Life". People/IPPF □

Dr. Banoo Coyagi is Director of the K.E.M. Hospital Pune, India.

Abortion pill: the obstacles

Its inventor, the French scientist Etienne-Emile Baulieu, calls the so-called "abortion pill" a blessing for women in the Third World. But experts warn that the risks of using the pill could easily outweigh the possible benefits and that a number of problems will have to be solved before the new method can be applied safely in Third World countries.

Since its introduction in 1988, "RU-486", as the pill is formally known, has been available only in France. Pressure from anti-abortion groups and concerns over negative publicity led the German pharmaceutical concern Hoechst, which holds the patent on the drug, to take it off the rest of the world market in December 1988.

Research on the effects of the drug is being conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) in China, Cuba, Hong Kong, India and Singapore. The results are encouraging, and experts agree that sooner or later the pill will be available world-wide. (See story at left.)

The medical effect of RU-486, known by its commercial name as "mifepristone", closely resembles that of an early miscarriage. It blocks the production of the female hormone, progesterone, leading to the ejection of the fertilized egg.

The effectiveness of the drug drops sharply after the first seven weeks of pregnancy, or up to three weeks after a woman has missed her period.

Research has shown 40 to 70 per cent of the pregnancies are terminated when only RU-486 is used. This rate increases to over 95 per cent when the drug is combined with prostaglandin, a synthetic hormone that causes uterine contractions, according to Dr. Bernard Maria who runs an abortion clinic near Paris.

The abortion pill has been welcomed by women's rights movements, which believe it gives women greater self-determination, makes them less dependent on the medical system, and is a non-invasive method.

Another claimed advantage is that the pill is easy to use in countries where the medical infrastructure is insufficient or completely lacking.

But this argument is flawed, said Paul van Look, a Dutch scientist participating in WHO's special programme on research and development in human reproduction. "As with pregnancy termination by vacuum aspiration, treatment with RU-486 and prostaglandin can only be undertaken in well-equipped clinics under medical supervision. It is certainly not a do-it-yourself method as is sometimes mistakenly thought", van Look said.

One obstacle is that both RU-486 and prostaglandin have to be available, which will pose major problems in countries with poor distribution and storage facilities. A second problem is that women have to be injected with the correct dose of prostaglandin two days after taking RU-486. For most women, this will prove to be difficult without medical assistance.

Another worrying issue is that women have to take RU-486 before the seventh week of their pregnancy. "In countries like India, misuse of RU-486 is very likely. It will probably be sold over the counter without prescription and be used for pregnancies of over seven weeks", medical biologist Amanda Legrand said.

Experience with the abortion pill in France has shown it is important women get a follow-up examination, especially because if the abortion fails, it may lead to heavy and prolonged bleeding.

Jolke Oppewal/IPS

The rainforests—finding solutions that everyone can work and live with

Can the world's rainforests be exploited to meet the needs of the developing countries in which they are located, while preserving the lifestyles of the indigenous inhabitants and satisfying the demands of environmentalists? As the battle for the rainforests heats up, new and often creative ways to find sustainable uses for these areas are emerging. Uniting all of them is the rejection of extreme solutions to a complex problem, be it the wish of developers who want to raze the forests and "develop" these areas, or radical environmentalists who believe the forests should be left in their "natural" state.

A recent report by the World Resources Institute, UNEP and UNDP asserted that tropical forests are vanishing at a rate of 40-50 million acres a year, nearly 50 per cent faster than earlier estimates had shown. Furthermore, about 100 species become extinct each day due to deforestation. According to Cultural Survival, a group that campaigns on behalf of indigenous peoples, this destruction also threatens the ancient societies of the

by Fred Pearce

It is delicious, but can it save the Amazon rainforest? Rainforest dairy ice-cream contains cupuaca (pronounce it coo-poo-a-soo) and biriba, two fruits of the Amazon.

The rediscovery by Western entrepreneurs and botanical adventurers of these and other fruits, nuts and resins in the forests has led to a fever of excitement among some environmentalists that they could provide an economic lifeline for the forests, an alternative to their destruction by chainsaws and firebrands. Can the same market forces that seem hellbent on destroying the rainforests be harnessed to save them?

The working thesis of this movement is that you don't have to destroy rainforests to make money out of them. You can make as much, and perhaps more, without upsetting the ecology, by harvesting the forests' natural products. And you can do this in cooperation with the inhabitants of the forests, whose unparalleled knowledge of the riches of the forests can lead hardy Westerners to a biological goldmine.

To ensure that conservation can meet capitalism on equal terms, campaigners are calling for the creation of "extractive reserves", forest land set aside to be exploited without destroying the forest. "The concept of the extractive reserve seems to us to be the key to protecting those areas of the rainforest which, for understandable social and economic reasons, cannot be set aside as totally protected areas", pronounced Jonathan Porritt, outgoing director of Friends of the Earth. The idea, he said, is "both practical and visionary". But will it work? And what do the people whose reserves are being eyed by the new eco-entrepreneurs think about it?

High priest of the rainforest harvest is Jason Clay. He runs a rainforest marketing project for Cultural Survival, a group that campaigns for the rights of indigenous peoples. Clay is behind an ice cream, Rainforest Crunch, a confection flavoured with hand-picked Brazil and cashew nuts from the Amazon that's already on sale in the US. He is also in charge of the well-publicized forays into the Amazon forests by the Body Shop, a fashionable chain of cosmetics stores.

Cultural Survival, Inc.

"For the forests", Clay says, "it is a question of use it or lose it. The value of the rainforest will have to be tested in the marketplace. But the point is to change the market, not the forest."

Clay hopes that projects such as his will cut out rapacious middlemen. Currently, "Brazil nut collectors receive 2 to 3 per cent of the New York wholesale price of their nuts", he says. And according to cabinetmaker Chris Cox, commercial traders give Peruvian natives less than £4 for mahogany trees that fetch up to £4,000 in London.

Can the land and its inhabitants really be saved by reducing the rainforest to an exotic bazaar to service the yearnings of Western consumers for nutty snacks and foot lotions? Andrew Grey, an anthropologist at the University of Cambridge and former director of the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs, thinks it unlikely. "We are spending our time talking about what we can get from the people of the rainforest, not what they can get from us. We are preserving the biodiversity of the market, not the rainforest."

Where Clay sees partnership, Grey sees a new round of economic imperialism. The best of intentions have a habit of going wrong, he warns. The idea of a rainforest harvest has an unfortunate ancestry. "The rubber boom in the Amazon early this century was at the time painted as a sustainable use of a forest resource", he says. But the rubber barons in remote corners of Colombia and elsewhere became engaged in an ill-disguised form of genocide. "Genocide won't happen now", says Grey, "but there are risks of ethnocide from the market economy. We risk enticing native people into a market over which they have no control."

Can the same market forces that seem hellbent on destroying the rainforests be harnessed to save them?

The list of products already taken from the rainforests appears endless. Oriana seed used by some Amazon tribes as a body make-up and to ward off flies is now known to readers of the small print of food labels as E160b, an orange food colouring used in butter among other things. Balata latex turns up in chewing gum and to coat golf balls. Numerous foods, medicines and industrial products are derived from the rainforests—hardly surprising as perhaps half of the world's species of plants and animals have their homes there.

Clearly, there is nothing new about Westerners raiding the rainforests to feed their markets. But it has been a raid rather than trade. Once botanists have taken their samples home and repotted them or tucked away the seeds in gene banks, the forests are often no longer needed. Either, like rubber or palms, production is transferred to plantations, or the required chemical is refined and synthesized in Western laboratories. Certainly neither Third World governments nor forest people receive any reward from the subsequent exploitation.

The classic example is the rosy periwinkle, a native plant of Madagascar. Taken from the forest by an American pharmaceutical company, it has been turned into a treatment for Hodgkin's disease, netting £60 million a year. A study for the World Wide Fund for Nature concluded that "if Madagascar had received a significant part of this income, it would have been one of the country's largest (if not the largest) single source of income".

The Prince of Wales is blunter: "Many Third World countries are apprehensive that they will be ripped off. . .The rainforests must not just be seen as another business opportunity." He has called for a system of royalty payments to the forested nations for the use of their genetic resources. But benefits must go to local people, he said, not just to national governments.

Two things may soften the impact of the latest drive to make money from the forests. First, many of the new initiatives are based on detailed study and dialogue with the rainforest peoples. The work is done by ethnobotanists, who realize that an understanding of native culture is essential to understanding the wealth of the forests. "We need to protect these people and decipher their knowledge", says Brian Booth, of the New York Botanical Garden.

But ethnobotanists, too, may have to decide whether their first loyalty is to Western sponsors or to the people who invite them into their villages and share their secrets. When native knowledge is deciphered and added to the databanks of multinationals, who will save the people then?

A second cause for optimism lies in the fact that many entrepreneurs now feel that a green image for their products commands a premium in the marketplace. Optimists

rainforest inhabitants. Yet many tropical countries, burdened by debt and rising poverty, have felt compelled to accelerate the destruction of the forests.

Can the preservation of the rainforests and the economic needs of developing countries really be reconciled? Can the native inhabitants of the rainforests preserve their cultures while contributing to economic development? The following report by Fred Pearce examines recent efforts by ecologists and developers to strike a balance between the imperatives of economic development and the need to preserve both the rainforests and the people who inhabit them. Central to these efforts is the idea of "extractive reserves", areas of the rainforests set aside for exploitation without destruction. At the heart of this scheme is the notion that the indigenous inhabitants, if given secure tenure to these areas, will develop the rainforests consistent with both national development needs and the supranational needs of the earth's population who depend on the oxygen produced by the rainforests for their very survival.

believe that the combination of these two facts can lead to the development in the West of markets for products that the local people are already harvesting, and increasingly processing as well. And that could be a market in which, with Western environmentalists ever ready to leap to their defence, the producers retain control.

In reality, a human footprint is present everywhere in the rainforests. Even harvesting Brazil nuts can have a devastating effect on the birds and animals that would otherwise have eaten them. And where humans hunt, the vulture goes hungry and patterns of seed dispersal, normally sustained by fruit-eating animals, go haywire. "There is no such thing as a virgin forest", argues Kent Redford of the Centre for Latin American Studies in Florida. "I challenge you to find a 100-square-kilometre area of the Amazon rainforest that is not altered by humans."

The key to successful "sustainable" exploitation of the forests and their products is secure land tenure for the forest people themselves. When the Philippine government declared the land of the Ikalahan people a forest reserve, the people had no interest in preserving the forest and began to destroy it. When it was returned to them they protected it.

From Borneo to Brazil, land rights are at the heart of the fight to preserve the rainforests and it is here that the idea of extractive reserves offers its best claim to being a genuine panacea for the problems of the rainforests.

The first extractive reserves

The idea of extractive reserves grew out of the struggle of tenant rubber tappers in Acre, the remote westernmost state of the Brazilian Amazon. They wanted to hang onto their livelihoods in the mid-1980s when their landlords, whose legal rights to the land were frequently tenuous, began to sell out to speculators and cattle ranchers as one of the great Amazon highways entered the state. Chico Mendes, shot dead by the sons of a local landowner 18 months ago, was at the centre of the movement, which had excited the interest of Western environmentalists.

The struggle was crowned in January this year when the government granted a series of extractive reserves to the local rubber tappers and Brazil nut collectors. Few of the existing landlords could substantiate their legal rights to their estates and forfeited them. The reserves now cover some four million hectares. The National Council of Rubber Tappers, which Mendes headed, has transformed an apparently archaic form of landholding, the traditional Amazonian rubber estate, into "a new form of occupation of land in the Amazon", says Steve Schwartzman, an anthropologist from the Environmental Defense Fund in Washington.

There are risks of ethnocide from the market economy. We risk enticing native people into a market over which they have no control.

But even before the reserves are fully operational, they are the subject of intense debate. The central question is this: are the extractive reserves of Acre a local solution to a particular social problem in that state, or do they represent a model for the sustainable exploitation of the Amazon rainforest? Are extractive reserves the right way forward for Indians and new migrants, as well as the second- and third-generation migrants that make up the population of rubber tappers?

The Union of Indian Nations in Brazil has formed a strong alliance with the rubber tappers in support of creating more reserves. But conventional development economists are sceptical. Tony Anderson, who works for the influential Ford Foundation in Rio de Janeiro, argues that if extractive reserves are to be economically viable, much of the forest will have to be transformed or even removed—which appears to destroy the happy notions behind their adoption by environmentalists such as Porritt. Rubber tapping, says Anderson, is economically viable in the Amazon only because of large price subsidies.

Even so, most of the rubber tappers live in poverty. "Their access to markets is poor and their social services nonexistent", he says. The reserves are little more than a means of preserving the way of life of a group of people which, thanks to the assassination of Mendes, has become known round the world. To survive on a reserve, a typical family needs 300 to 500 hectares of land, far more than the allocations made in the disastrous colonization programmes for farmers elsewhere in the Amazon. On that basis, says Anderson, there is simply not enough land in the Amazon to go round.

According to John Browder, from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a member of the Latin American Studies Association, the real question is what should be done with the million or so families of migrant farmers strung out across the Amazon. "If the reserves are to survive, they must incorporate other forms of land use." Only in that way will they attract outside investment.

For most of those involved in the debate, what the Amazon and other rainforests need is people power, not economic models.

Cultural Survival, Inc./João R. Ripper

The Amazon's rubber tappers have proven to be effective stewards of the rainforest. Indigenous inhabitants could profitably extract a wide variety of fruits and nuts as well as oils and herbs for medicines, skin lotions and food additives.

Speaking for the rubber tappers, Antonio Macedo, coordinator of the National Council of Rubber Tappers in Brazil, insists that extractive reserves should not be seen as the basis of a capitalist model for the Amazon. "We cannot accept the beginning of a new race by international capital to identify new rainforest products. We are capable of managing our own riches with our own projects", he says.

For Macedo an early priority for the rubber tappers is to begin manufacturing small rubber products themselves. The first job would be to supply local markets rather than international traders.

The rubber tappers may find their own way, but what about the Indians of the Amazon and other tribal peoples in other rainforests? Do they face ethnocide, with or without the aid of green capital? Again, the issue may come down to land rights. The government of Colombia has been systematically handing back its corner of the Amazon rainforest to the native Indians. As a result, says Martin von Hildebrand, an anthropologist who worked in the region for 20 years before becoming the government's head of Indian affairs, there has been a renaissance of Indian ritual and culture: "We have given them an alternative path of development to integration. They can advance and retain their culture. Being able to do this depends on them having control of their own areas."

Many Third World countries are apprehensive that they will be ripped off. . .The rainforests must not just be seen as another business opportunity.

They will trade. "The Indians need the outside world—for metal tools, batteries, flashlights and medicines to combat Western diseases", says von Hildebrand. But they will trade on their own terms, according to their own needs. They have already had one recent narrow escape. Coca traders arrived in the area in the early 1980s to buy leaves to supply the North American cocaine market. Coca is a highly sustainable crop with a highly sustainable market and in some ways, perhaps, the ideal forest product. The traders soon left again, unhappy with the quality of the local coca leaves, but before then, many of the young men that von Hildebrand was staying with became rich enough to buy tape recorders and other Western goods. It could have destroyed the tribe, but the culture was strong and the young men spent most of their time using their tape recorders to record and learn traditional songs from the elders. Now they are using them to map their lands and document their way of life.

"The culture is changing, but developing", says von Hildebrand. "They need space and time to adapt to the modern world in their own way and on their own terms." If rainforest ice-cream and Brazil nut body rub can help to buy that space and time, then the rainforest bazaar may yet, despite the forebodings, serve their purpose as well as ours. But, as Cambridge anthropologist Grey warns, "the voice of the indigenous people has to come first". □

Fred Pearce is the author of Green Warriors, *to be published by The Bodley Head at the end of the year. This article first appeared in* New Scientist *magazine, London, the weekly review of science and technology.*

GATT countdown begins

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rice, while many other countries are building up grain surpluses they sometimes have to destroy.

The negotiations have been marked by sharp disagreements between the US and the European Community (EC) over agricultural subsidies. The Community, where farmers hold enormous political sway, has so far been unwilling to make concessions on agricultural subsidies, import barriers and export subsidies. These farmer incentives, both the US and developing countries agree, give the Europeans an unfair advantage by shutting off the huge European market to the exports of other countries. And, while developed countries have agreed in principle that these barriers have to come down, the EC and the US have not been able to agree on a mechanism or a timeframe for their removal.

If these barriers are taken down as GATT is proposing, developing countries could sell an additional $60 billion in agricultural products on the international market.

Some experts predict that Asian countries like Bangladesh, India and Indonesia will benefit most from this, while net exports from Africa and the Middle East will decrease. Other large developed agricultural producers, like Australia and Canada, may also benefit. Australian sugar producers estimate that US sugar subsidies cost them over $94 million a year in taxes and lost business.

Many observers at the negotiations fear that disagreement over agriculture could scuttle the whole round. As a senior GATT official remarked, "If talks on agriculture don't get any further, we may as well write off the Uruguay Round."

The Economist

Despite the row between the US and the EC over agriculture, there is a growing sense of frustration among developing country delegates to the talks. They feel that the developed countries as a whole are not really interested in the issues of such vital importance to them. In the words of Felipe Jaramillo, a Colombian trade negotiator: "The advantage is on the side of the industrialized countries."

One example of this is European and North American efforts to repeal the GATT laws which allow developing countries to suspend GATT rules when faced with severe balance-of-payment problems. Another source of worry has been the growth of regional trade blocs in recent years, most notably the EC and the US-Canada free-trade agreement. Developing countries fear that these will only enhance protectionism by excluding developing country products.

Another source of tension has arisen from developed country efforts to expand GATT to include protection of services and intellectual property rights. Under heavy pressure from transnational corporations (TNCs) based in their countries, they want GATT to create a single regime for the regulation of patents to recover the billions of dollars they claim are lost from the "theft and piracy" of technologies developed in the North. Many Third World delegations fear that this will only increase their dependence on the North by inhibiting the growth of indigenous technology.

Developed countries also want to see the lifting of restrictions on foreign investment to open up Third World countries to further foreign capital penetration. They claim that local laws restricting the percentage of foreign ownership of vital industries represent serious barriers to free trade.

Staking out positions

On these and related issues, developed countries have been busy staking out common positions amongst themselves. Developing countries, many of which have little or no experience in these areas, are finding themselves at a disadvantage because they do not have skilled negotiators to pull their weight in these talks.

GATT also hopes to strengthen the machinery for resolving disputes between countries. Currently, GATT has no way to force countries to comply with its rulings. This has led countries like the United States to take unilateral action against countries it believes are engaging in unfair trade.

The outcome of the round is hard to predict. Negotiators on all sides believe the talks could collapse completely if the EC and US cannot reach agreement on agriculture. GATT secretary-general Arthur Dunkel said recently: "There is a clear political perception that we cannot fail." Whether that perception can cause the tough decisions to be made remains to be seen. □

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Note: Just out is a book by Chakravarthi Raghavan entitled Recolonization: GATT, the Uruguay Round and the Third World *(with a foreword by Julius Nyerere). It is available from the Third World Network, 87 Cantonment Road, 10250 Penang, Malaysia (£ 10 or equivalent in other currencies); Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, UK (£ 12.95); or The Apex Press, Suite 9A, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA ($17.50).*

LDCs in Paris

from page 1

Social sectors, notes the report, have also declined while "environmental deterioration gathered pace". Meanwhile, the total external debt of the poorest countries doubled from $35.8 billion in 1982 to $69.3 billion in 1988.

Misguided domestic policies, such as overvalued exchange rates, discrimination against agriculture in favour of industrialization as well as heavy state intervention in the productive sectors are also cited as reasons for economic decline.

Efforts to reverse these trends according to conventional prescriptions have not always proved successful. During the 1980s 27 LDCs implemented International Monetary Fund (IMF)-sponsored structural adjustment programmes. But according to UNCTAD, the 12 LDCs which have had consecutive programmes throughout most of the 1980s have not performed significantly better than LDCs as a group.

Structural adjustment programmes, according to UNCTAD, have focused too narrowly on macro-economic issues, without due attention to micro-economic realities. For example, it noted that there is little point in privatizing enterprises if there is no entrepreneurial class in the country concerned.

Another hindrance to LDC growth is that external factors have continued to weigh heavily against them. LDCs, heavily dependent on primary commodity exports, have seen their terms of trade decline by 16 per cent between 1980 and 1988. And, while a few donor countries have achieved the aid target of 0.15 per cent of GDP, most have not. When the increase in population of the LDCs is taken into account, aid per capita to the LDCs decreased from $26 in 1981 to $19 in 1987.

Debt relief measures have also failed to make a significant dent. Several LDC countries have had to reschedule their debt repeatedly, "a fact which clearly indicates the deficiencies of current approaches to rescheduling". Although 34 LDCs have had $3 billion worth of their debt written off, this is a small part of the total.

Aid per capita to the LDCs decreased from $26 in 1981 to $19 in 1987.

Donors at the Conference are expected to be divided among those who feel the aid target should be increased to 0.2 per cent of GDP because of the increase in population in the LDCs, those who say they should first aim to satisfy existing targets, and those who don't want any targets at all.

There are also questions over what should be expected from the LDCs in return. Structural adjustment will continue to be a prerequisite. But it is not clear—given the experience of the last decade—that setting specific growth targets is helpful. There is also a growing consensus that there needs to be greater attention to social dimensions and human resource development.

But this, coupled with the dramatic developments in Eastern Europe, has also fueled talk of linking aid with greater democratization and accountability in the LDCs.

"There are a number of countries, especially the large ones, bringing in the issue of human rights and wanting to link aid to political reforms", notes a Conference participant. "This is a reflection of the times, but for a lot of LDCs it is difficult to digest because it challenges the concept of sovereignty."

The issue could pose problems for UNCTAD, the umbrella under which the talks will take place. "There are UN bodies which deal with human rights issues", an UNCTAD staffer noted. "A number of people are likely to argue that this issue is misplaced at a UN conference that is supposed to deal with economic and social issues."

One compromise being floated is that the Conference adopt the preamble of the Lomé IV Convention which makes reference to human rights and participatory development. Since most LDC countries are signatories to the Convention, it is hoped that this wording will be accepted.

While donors say that aid levels will not be affected by developments in Eastern Europe, there is likely to be tighter scrutiny over how aid money is used. "Policymakers", noted British foreign secretary Douglas Hurd in a recent speech, "cannot afford to ignore, in these days of competing priorities and limited resources, the relative effectiveness of aid. Aid must clearly go where it can do good."

Another concern among donors regarding LDCs—likely to be raised at the Paris Conference—is what happens when a country surpasses the LDC criteria. Despite the dismal overall performance of LDCs, five—Bhutan, Botswana, Cape Verde, Maldives and Yemen—achieved an average GDP annual growth rate of over 6 per cent in the 1980s. While there have been several countries applying to join the club, none has yet left because of the access to concessional finance afforded by staying.

The time has come, many donors feel, when criteria for graduating from the club needs to be established. On an optimistic note, such a mechanism would be symbolic of the fact that no country—however poor—is doomed to remain so forever. □

Colleen Lowe Morna, a freelance journalist based in Zimbabwe, is a regular contributor to Development Forum.

The LDC Club

The 42 countries currently classified as least developed are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Yemen.

ecowatch

Tunisia

Lake Ichkeul wins a reprieve

Large dam and irrigation projects, long looked to as a way to promote local development, are meeting increasing opposition from local people and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Like massive projects proposed in India, Brazil and Canada, this river diversion plan in Tunisia has the government and lenders thinking twice before proceeding.

The Tunisian government is considering modifying a controversial river diversion plan that threatens to convert Lake Ichkeul,

by Omar Sattaur

one of the last great freshwater lakes of North Africa, into a salty lagoon surrounded by dry marsh.

The project would dam all six rivers flowing into the lake from the Atlas mountains, diverting them to provide water for Tunis and irrigation for small farmers in the area. So far, three of these have been built.

Lake Ichkeul, located in northern Tunisia, is linked to the sea and periodically receives some salt water. Stopping the flow of freshwater would turn the lake into a large evaporation pan and the wetland surrounding it into a dry salt marsh.

Ted Hollis, of the University College London, says the plan ignores existing economic activity at Ichkeul. The lake's fisheries are worth $1 million a year with two-thirds of the catch being exported. Local farmers graze 12,000 cattle on the marshland around the lake.

In ecological terms, Ichkeul is priceless. A quarter of a million waterfowl from all over northern Europe spend the winter there and it is also the home of the otter and the North African buffalo.

The government recognized this when it established the Ichkeul National Park in the late 1970s. It encompasses the lake, the magnificent dolomitic mountain that rises out of it and the surrounding marshes.

The park is listed under the Ramsar convention for the conservation of wetlands of international importance, the World Heritage Network and UNESCO's network of biosphere reserves—making it the world's only site listed under all three conventions. Despite this, the plan for diverting Ichkeul's rivers was not reviewed until pressure built up from a broad alliance of conservationists.

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Hollis and other UCL staff, together with local NGOs, government officials and scientists from France's National Centre for Scientific Research have proposed a modified plan that would preserve the ecology of the park while allowing some exploitation of its water.

Although the government has been cooperating with UN agencies in implementing a water and soil conservation plan, it had until late last year flatly rejected these modifications, not least because the country suffered its worst drought on record in the winter of 1987-88, followed by another drought the next winter.

But growing awareness of the need to safeguard the environment has lent weight to the proposed modifications. This was increased when the West German government blocked development aid for part of the water resources scheme when it became aware of the possible environmental damage.

The pressure culminated in a seminar earlier this year to consider the environmental impact of the project more thoroughly and to look at compensatory measures to mitigate them. The seminar resulted in the Tunisian government launching two years of further studies into the environmental effects of the scheme and making a public commitment to safeguard the ecological integrity of the Ichkeul National Park.

Opponents of the project hope that the government will make more tangible concessions. In the meantime, Ichkeul has won a reprieve, for the time being at least. □

PANOS

More parks for fragile paradise

In spite of the diversity of the South Pacific environment, from the tropical rainforests of Papua New Guinea to volcanoes and atolls, the region's undeveloped areas suffer from an inadequate system of national parks and protected areas, leaving many wildlife and vegetation species at risk.

Outside Hawaii, only 50 islands have any parks or protected zones. Half are remote uninhabited islands. Only 19 national parks are any larger than 10 square kilometres. Often areas protected by law in theory cannot be policed in practice. In contrast, the 1.5-million-hectare Gunung Lorentz park established by Indonesia in Irian Jaya is bigger than any Pacific island.

Says New Zealand environmentalist Guy Salmon: "Size isn't the only thing that diminishes as one moves into the Pacific. Species richness declines progressively from west to east and from large islands to small ones. Pacific rainforests are still very rich in plant species. However, they're generally not heavily timbered—many areas show the influence of periodic hurricanes and past shifting cultivation."

Salmon's rainforest protection movement, the Maruia Society, and New Zealand's Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society have taken on an important role in South Pacific conservation, advising regional governments and lobbying Australia and New Zealand for more aid support.

Conservation lobbyists are leading a campaign for nations of the region to adopt more high-profile environmental programmes. Salmon believes it is socially and politically more difficult to make progress in Pacific conservation than in South-East Asia because of several factors. He cites:

- The large number of Pacific governments (more than 15) involved;
- Lack of environment or conservation ministries and the low level of environmental awareness;
- The paucity of significant national parks and reserves;
- A virtual absence of active indigenous non-governmental conservation organizations;
- The limited control over land use that governments actually have because most

by David Robie

land is in customary ownership and its use depends on the traditional landowners;
- The slow process of "Pacific Way" consensus decision-making, which has led to little action being taken over the resolutions of three regional national parks conferences held during the past 13 years.

British naturalist and television producer Andrew Mitchell stresses in his new book, *A Fragile Paradise* (Collins), that creating reserves without allowing for traditional or customary use of the land involved alienates the local people. No conservation scheme ever succeeds without their support.

He argues: "New initiatives are perhaps needed which break free of the Western concept of pristine parks which exclude humans unless they are tourists, to be more in keeping with Pacific people's needs. Australia and New Zealand must play an increasingly influential role in supporting conservation measures in the region—as must France."

France has been responsible for many far-sighted conservation developments in the region. The French colonies of New Caledonia and Polynesia are among the best endowed of the Pacific nations and territories.

Mitchell points out that three years ago a regional national parks congress vowed to establish at least one protected area in each country, double the existing number of protected areas and double the number of ecosystem types receiving some protection (about 2,000 ecosystems are known in the region). Since then only one new reserve has been created—in Tonga.

Papua New Guinea, says Guy Salmon, is in a group on its own. This country of more than 3.4 million people is twice the size of New Zealand and several times larger than all the other Pacific islands strung together. It is still 72 per cent forested, although this proportion is rapidly shrinking.

The country stands out most of all because of the "extraordinary abundance and diversity of species". On the mainland alone there are 367 butterfly species, 200 frogs, 200 lizards, 70 snakes, 750 birds and seven endemic rainforest mammals such as echidna, bandicoot and kangaroos. Birdlife includes the bird of paradise, bowerbirds, eagles, hornbills and giant cockatoos.

Papua New Guinea is also the only Pacific country with environmental assessment procedures, a Department of Environment and Conservation, and a significant network of protected areas. The political climate is more sympathetic to conservation than elsewhere. The constitution endorses conservation as one of five national goals.

Five countries—Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Western Samoa—have a combined area of 4.7 million hectares of tropical rainforest. Almost half are in the Solomon Islands alone.

But while the Solomons have seen the development of an environmental nightmare through large-scale logging—90 per cent of felled trees are exported as logs to Japan—Vanuatu has a strong empathy with conservation goals.

Salmon said: "The country is proudly nuclear-free, 'green' and committed to small-scale development. There is a friendly Forest Service and a one-person environmental bureau. Vanuatu is notable for having taken the initiative to establish protected natural areas on customary land."

The rest of the South Pacific countries largely comprise small islands or atolls with little forest. However, Salmon believes both French Polynesia and the Cook Islands, particularly the main island of Rarotonga, should be given priority.

GEMINI □

David Robie is a New Zealand journalist specializing in Pacific and development issues.

World Summit for Children

Interview with James P. Grant, executive director of UNICEF

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ty, where the equivalent of an Armenian earthquake disaster occurs every day.

The second objective of the Summit is to put a spotlight on a series of children's problems which are too difficult to resolve in a conference but which require increased attention: drugs, AIDS and the impact of the debt crisis on children, particularly in Latin America and Africa.

The Summit will also accelerate the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. If the minimum of 20 countries ratifies the Convention before the Summit meets, we can announce that the Convention is actually in force.

Finally, we see the meeting as confirming that the world is prepared to give a higher priority to children; a commitment to place a first call on the resources of society for the essentials of child survival, protection and early childhood development.

DE *You just described how the 1980s represented a step forward in developing a "doable" action plan for child survival and development. For the first time there has been an international plan that is realistic and can be implemented on a country-by-country, region-by-region basis. At the same time, however, the decade of the 80s saw development stall in Africa and Latin America where child mortality and illiteracy rates began to soar again. Hasn't this meant a serious setback for the implementation of these plans?*

GRANT: Ironically, it was the retrogression that occurred in the early 80s—the debt crisis, the commodity crisis, etc.—that really brought the Child Survival Revolution formula forward, just as it was the agricultural crisis in Asia in the mid-60s that crystallized the Green Revolution. Actually, the technology for the Green Revolution had been around for some time in the mid-60s but it took the crisis to bring the response. The child survival and development revolution was a response to a sudden deterioration.

DE *UNICEF was among those that criticized the so-called structural adjustment policies that translated into unacceptably high social costs for the poor in many developing countries. Do you think your call for "adjustment with a human face" has been heeded?*

GRANT: Since the late 80s there has very clearly been a rhetorical acceptance by international agencies like the World Bank and by national authorities that structural adjustment needs to be done with a human face, that the social sectors need to be not only protected but also restructured to favour the poor.

There is still a serious gap between rhetoric and realistic action in many countries, although that gap is much less than it was three years ago. I am among those who strongly believe that Latin America needs to have a substantial reduction of its debt burden and that Africa needs a massive reduction of its debt burden if they are to regain their economic dynamism.

DE *As you pointed out earlier, here we are in 1990 and major shifts are taking place in the world. Will the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union bring about even greater problems for organizations such as UNICEF?*

GRANT: It's very interesting for UNICEF, which started with two-thirds of its activities in Eastern Europe in the 40s but then got almost completely out of it in the 70s and 80s, to return there in considerable force at the present time. Well, there will be financial problems in Eastern Europe, which is going through political as well as economic transformations, that threaten the economy and may be even more serious in that if they restructure their economies, the safety net of social services which has been built into the old systems will get dramatically dislocated. Certainly, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have had through the decades a good bedrock of social services for education and health. Basically, the socialist countries have given a high priority to pre-schools, health and education.

Now, we did get a foretaste of these problems in China in the early 80s when the Chinese shifted from the commune system to the market system for agriculture, and suddenly the structure that had provided the financing and the organizational mechanism for pre-schools and the barefoot doctor health system vanished. These services had to be rebuilt during the 80s. In Eastern Europe we have very much the same question. They've got to build in unemployment insurance programmes—there was no unemployment insurance in most Eastern European countries two years ago because it was handled in a different way. So a major concern for UNICEF in the next two years in Eastern Europe is identifying how to adjust with a human face in that context.

Ours is the first generation in human history where it's possible to think of bringing the benefits of progress to everybody.

At the same time, UNICEF is trying to be responsive in cases such as Romania where emergency conditions have been identified. These do not require large sums of money; it's really a question of policy and advice. Western Europe, Japan and the US will be the source of the major capital because Eastern Europe doesn't require grant aid, in many cases doesn't even require concessional aid; it requires the kind of financial credit that will allow it to make a turnaround. But UNICEF will not reduce in any way its work in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

DE *UNICEF has been successful in maintaining its immunization and primary health care programmes in war-torn areas, in Colombia, El Salvador and Uganda, for example. Until recently you were the Secretary-General's special representative to Sudan, heading Operation Lifeline there in a continuing effort to get food and medicine to areas besieged by civil war. Is this going to be a permanent part of UNICEF's diplomatic and logistical effort—going into these conflict areas and making space to continue your programmes?*

UNICEF/Claude Sauvageot

GRANT: UNICEF is very much concerned with this problem of displaced people, people caught in the middle of conflict, and we are also concerned with refugees. Fortunately, there is the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which I consider to be one of the great institutions of the post-World War II era.

It is clearly a problem that we do not have a comparable institution for dealing with displaced people or with children caught in civil wars. If one goes back to World War I, 90 per cent of the casualties were soldiers, 10 per cent were civilians. By the time World War II came along, it was 50/50. But by the 80s, 85 per cent of the casualties were civilians, a majority of them children, and if you were to leave aside the Iran/Iraq war, it's well over 90 per cent. During the civil war in the Sudan in 1988, 250,000 civilians died as a byproduct of the fighting, but only 6,000 soldiers died—in other words, 40 civilians for every soldier! So we have become very concerned with how to protect children in these circumstances.

When it was discovered in El Salvador that more children died in 1984 from not being vaccinated than killed or injured by more than a hundred million dollars' worth of bombs, shells, landmines and assassins' bullets, we were able to persuade all parties at least to stop the war briefly so that kids under the age of one could get their full immunizations. This has continued from 1985 to the present with levels of immunization for one-year-olds in El Salvador today exceeding those in New York or London.

The concept then got extended to a much broader segment of the civilian population in the Sudan, where the government continues to recognize the concept that the UN can work in rebel areas and bring in essentials. It marked a great step forward recently when the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit passed a resolution concerning children in conflict. It specifically endorsed the concept of corridors of peace, areas of peace where children can be extricated or at least reached with supplies during conflicts.

DE *A question regarding your personal vision of what UNICEF is attempting to accomplish. Before becoming executive director of UNICEF 10 years ago, you worked with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and other aid organizations. Your experience as the head of an international organization must have broadened your vision. How has your own perception of development changed over the past decade? Do you see a corresponding change in the international aid community?*

GRANT: I would say that my basic concept of what it is we are trying to do has remained unchanged since I first became involved with the United Nations in 1945. It was my privilege after the end of World War II to be involved with General George Marshall. In China I was his assistant and then I went to the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (UNRRA) which was involved with post-war rehabilitation where I was put in charge of the programme in the communist areas during the civil war.

Then as now my vision was that, as Toynbee said, ours is the first generation in human history where it's possible to think of bringing the benefits of progress to everybody for the first time.

This vision required the end of colonialism, it meant that attitudes towards racism had to change, that women had to be empowered. But this is the grand vision. I see far more clearly now than I did then that progress of this sort has always been people-led. You can have secretary of state Marshall propose a Marshall Plan, but if you really look at the big things that have happened, people have made the changes, and rarely with the encouragement of their governments.

And when I look to the future, particularly let's say with my present, more parochial responsibilities for children, it is imperative that public opinion develop a morality that makes it unacceptable for 25,000 children to have died yesterday from utterly manageable, preventable causes.

Times have changed. Before the end of World War II, I was in Calcutta at the tail-end of the great Calcutta famine. A million and a half people died in the streets of Calcutta, yet the grain stores of Calcutta were full! Neither the government of Calcutta nor the citizens of Calcutta felt any responsibility to feed their people.

Today, as we saw from Ethiopia, Kampuchea, Sudan, public opinion in the world won't stand for that, and it compels governments to act. It becomes good politics to respond to these situations and very bad politics for leaders not to respond to them. And the progress for children is ultimately going to be dependent upon this change of attitude.

That is why the advent of the child rights Convention is so important. And my own vision and dream is that during the 90s, it will become a Magna Carta for children. Just as nature gives a first call to a child—if a breast-feeding mother gets sick, the baby continues to get a full diet as long as it's physically possible—society must accept the concept that its children have first call. When world society treats that as the norm, it would, I think, be one of the greatest gifts of our century to the future. □

women in development

Can womanpower solve manpower problem?

Abu Dhabi, UAE—As instability in world oil prices forces many Gulf states to diversify their heavily oil-based economies, women, long neglected by economic planners, may benefit from the growing need for a skilled labour force.

"Women are our under-utilized human resource which will be drawn upon in the next decade to help in the process of growth and development", Bahrain-based economist Henry Azzam said in a recent report.

Azzam believes that women can be easily drafted into sectors where a "single sex environment" is possible, such as banking, health and education, as is being done in Saudi Arabia.

by Amina Jamal

The member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council—Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman—now aim to reduce the number of imported labourers, who form up to 60 per cent of the population in some member countries. Experts believe that a greater role for women could ease this transition to local labour.

Many leaders in the region, while insisting that the primary role of women must be that of mother and wife, are encouraging educated women to combine traditional responsibilities with careers that could contribute to national development.

Barriers to participation

Oil-rich Gulf states have been investing huge sums in setting up schools, adult literacy centres and universities exclusively for women. But although hundreds of girls graduate each year, cultural and social norms and lack of economic motivation prevent many of them from taking up jobs, say Gulf-based economists and social workers.

Officials say that out of the 600-700 female university graduates in the UAE alone each year, only a handful go into professions like social work or teaching while the majority are content to remain housewives, thanks to the economic prosperity of the state whose annual oil revenue is over $10 billion.

Educated women are encouraged to combine traditional roles with careers to promote national development.

Many Gulf officials say pressures from conservative families also prevent young women from working alongside men, or at unconventional hours. Women who work are also under constant pressure from social workers who urge them not to neglect their domestic or marital responsibilities by relying on housemaids, nannies or babysitters.

While employment could possibly jeopardize a woman's marriage, lack of it leaves her helpless should her husband desert or divorce her. The burden of supporting such women falls on the state. In the UAE, the number of single or divorced women applying for social security has been increasing, making them the single largest group of social security beneficiaries in the country.

Among efforts to remedy the situation, UAE authorities have decided to grant women licences for running private schools, consultancy offices, beauty parlours, tailoring shops and pharmacies.

The decision was taken "so that the nation's graduate women may be able to make greater contributions to the development process", said the country's Municipal Council, a coordinating body for city governments, adding that women should also be allowed to be auditors, interior decorators and designers.

The UAE has also built a private medical school for women in the city of Dubai as well as facilities at the national university at Al Ain. Besides hundreds of schools where primary education is compulsory for girls as well as boys, there are over 100 adult literacy centres. The country, like its fellow Gulf states, plans to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000. Official estimates say women's literacy has now reached 57 per cent from negligible levels in the early 1970s.

In an effort to build a national professional cadre of women, colleges of technology have also been started, where women can train in business management, computer science and secretarial work. The success of these colleges, which were set up two years ago, has inspired neighbouring states like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to plan similar insitutions.

Officials at the colleges report a tremendous response from students as well as parents eager for their children to get a practical rather than theoretical education. They say out of the 750 students currently enrolled, about 400 are women. □

Women's Feature Service

Kenyan elders defend circumcision

Nairobi—Traditionalists in this East African nation are up in arms, challenging the government's recent decision to ban female circumcision, the ritual mutilation of women's genitals.

They argue that for the government to ban the ritual without seeking the consent of the people concerned is a violation of human rights since the practice is sanctioned by custom and religion.

Maritim Sirma Rirei, an elder from the town of Limuru, 50 kilometres north of Nairobi, says, "The ban will create unnecessary conflicts between the administration and defenders of our great culture."

by Rebecca Katumba

Female circumcision, practised in over 26 African and Arab countries, involves cutting off part or most of a woman's genitals. The reasons given for these practices range from the wish to reduce her sexual desire and control her sexuality, to the weight of age-old traditions which attribute health and fertility benefits to the procedure.

There are two kinds of female circumcision: clitoridectomy and infibulation. Clitoridectomy is excision of the clitoris, which may involve removal of the tip or the entire organ and adjacent parts. Infibulation is more mutilating because not only are the clitoris and adjoining parts cut off but the vaginal opening is sewn up, leaving only a tiny passage for urination and menstruation.

A woman who has been infibulated cannot have sexual intercourse with a man unless she is deinfibulated. Usually, she is cut open only on the day her marriage is to be consummated, an extremely painful process.

After childbirth a woman may be partially sewn up again, to increase the husband's pleasure.

In Kenya several tribes including the Kikuyu, Meru, Akamba, Masai and Kalenin practice female circumcision. Among the Kikuyu, clitoridectomy is performed, while the Somali population in Kenya prefers infibulation, as do many of the country's other Muslims.

Defending the practice, Mama Philomena Njeri, who has circumcised scores of girls, says, "This puberty rite is a girl's initiation into womanhood. It enables her to accomplish the transition from a state of irresponsibility to one of responsibility."

Njeri insists that "Circumcision makes women clean, promotes virginity and chastity and guards young girls from sexual frustration by deadening their sexual appetite. If all women were circumcised we would not be burdened by AIDS."

Such attitudes persist even though genital mutilation is widely known to have severe health consequences. Death due to infection or haemorrhage is not uncommon. Again, there may be complications such as infertility, incontinence, abscesses and fistulas, besides sexual and psychological problems.

Circumcised women also have a higher risk of death during childbirth. It is estimated that half of Kenya's maternal mortality rate of 170 per 100,000 live births is due to harmful traditional practices such as circumcision.

Several international women's federations as well as United Nations organizations are opposed to the practice. In Kenya, president Daniel arap Moi first denounced the custom in 1982. He has repeatedly advised elders to accept change and "discard social practices which are no longer compatible with modern lifestyles".

James Miano, a Nairobi gynaecologist, points out that such customs die hard. "In some communities a girl is considered a pariah if she is not circumcised. She misses having peer group friends and generally becomes very miserable", adding "there is a need to educate the people on the dangers of the custom and let them make their own choice."

Dr. Miano also notes that women have not openly supported the ban. "My interpretation is that women like puberty rituals because they make them feel important. Or perhaps they want their children to suffer like they did."

Assistant minister of culture Grace Ogot, while announcing the ban, made it clear that the government's intention was "to save women from harmful side-effects associated with the practice".

Ogot regretted that "The life of an African woman is dominated by traditional ethics. Female circumcision and nutritional taboos are among those which have negative effects on women." She did not, however, clarify what action the government would take against those who are bent on carrying on the tradition.

Female circumcision is currently one of the most hotly debated topics in Kenyan society. Some tribes are accusing others of engineering the ban to destroy their culture and customs. There is a danger that the basic issue of women's rights may be lost in tribal and ethnic rivalries. □

Women's Feature Service

healthline

Traditional healers officially sanctioned in Ghana

Accra—Ghana's government announced early in March that it will appoint a deputy director of medical services to be in charge of herbal medicine, a move many Ghanaians consider "revolutionary" and long overdue.

Traditional healers considered the new ministerial position a victory, and congratulated the government for its political courage. The move shows the government's recognition of the importance traditional medicine still plays in Ghanaian society.

Herbal practitioners cater to the health needs of over 70 per cent of Ghana's 14 million people. While most of these patients

by Edward Ameyibor

live in rural areas, an increasing number of urban dwellers have turned to these cures, unable to afford the exorbitant price of modern health care which has risen due to the reintroduction of user fees to keep hospitals afloat and pay for imported medicine.

There is about one traditional herbalist for every 140 people in Ghana, compared to one doctor for about 20,000—80 per cent of those working in urban areas.

Ghana boasts a centre for scientific research into plant medicine, established in 1964 by the Kwame Nkrumah government in Mampong-Akwapim, north of the capital. The centre carries out research into the claims of herbalists, extracts the medicinal properties of their herbs and roots, developing them into tablets, syrups, liquids and capsules.

It has developed and is marketing treatments for illnesses like malaria, ulcers, diabetes, hypertension, asthma and other chest ailments, and gastrointestinal problems, though lack of money has been the major drawback in bottling more preparations.

Nevertheless, traditional medicine and

WHO/D. Henroud

The limits of Western-style traditional medicine highlight the renewed reliance on traditional medicine throughout Africa.

healing methods still tend to be looked on with scorn by the modern medical profession. Relations between traditional and modern practitioners could best be described as mistrustful.

According to Olayiwola Akerele, head of the World Health Organization's (WHO) traditional medicine programme, "One might say that traditional medicine has the support of the population and the opposition of health professions."

Ignorance and prejudice seem to be the main culprits—Third World medical staff, trained exclusively in Western methods, often have little or no exposure to their countries' traditional systems.

WHO established its programme in 1976, causing many previously sceptical countries to re-examine the possible contributions that traditional medicine could make to national health-care systems. But with only one out of WHO's 1,441 professional staff devoted to the subject, many question the ability of the world organization to contribute to the only form of treatment available to two-thirds of mankind.

Akouku Sarpong, Ghana's minister of health, says there is a need to hasten the fusion of traditional herbal treatments with scientifically based medical processes, because of the impact of costly modern medical practices on the economy. Only 13 per cent of essential drugs are manufactured locally.

Sarpong has urged the maximum use of local substitutes for imported drugs. It is important to improve traditional medical practice because it forms the backbone of the health care delivery system and is the surest way of attaining primary health care for all, minister Sarpong says.

He suggested the training and reorientation of traditional practitioners so that they can adopt appropriate technology and safer therapeutic methods.

Increasingly, on radio and in the print media, there are calls for alternative medical treatment. Government recognition of traditional medicine will go a long way to promote better health for Ghana's people.

IPS □

Women and AIDS

World AIDS Day, 1 December, will focus on "Women and AIDS", underlining the increasing impact of AIDS on women, as well as the crucial role women play in preventing infection with the human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) and in caring for HIV-infected people and people with AIDS. The Day will also highlight the broader framework of women, health and development, particularly at the country level.

Announcing the special theme, WHO director-general Hiroshi Nakajima stressed the need for women to participate actively in primary health care. All too often the high illiteracy rate among women is a major obstacle. "Women", he said, "are the key to achieving Health for All."

World AIDS Day 1990 will particularly highlight the link between the status of women within the family and society, and their vulnerability to infection and its consequences. It will also draw attention to the special concerns related to HIV/AIDS and pregnancy, childbirth and raising children.

Promoting Africa's medicines

Africa can reduce its reliance on imported drugs and save precious foreign exchange by developing and promoting local pharmaceutical industries, says a report published recently by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

The study says that some drugs produced in countries like Kenya and Zimbabwe are of sufficiently good quality to make im-

by A. Khan

ports of these drugs unnecessary. But bureaucratic delays, out-of-date regulations and unfair competition by foreign companies are hampering progress by local manufacturers.

The report identified several promising new projects, including the production of starch and liquid glucose from maize and cassava and pharmaceutical glassware in Malawi and Zambia, and suggested the establishment of plants for production of intravenous fluids in Kenya, Lesotho and Malawi.

The study urges governments to buy locally-produced medicines whenever possible, and if necessary, to relax patent regulations to facilitate the growth of the national industry. It also suggests that international companies should be encouraged to set up joint ventures in Africa to produce pharmaceutical chemicals needed as raw materials by local manufacturers.

Other suggestions include training workshops in good manufacturing practice and quality control; establishment of regional pharmacy colleges and research and training institutions; and the relaxation of tariff regulations governing local production of drugs.

African governments are urged to harmonize tariff and licensing procedures to curb imports of goods already produced locally, and give preference to local products when government hospitals and health departments buy drugs. NEWSLINK AFRICA □

Olle Hansson Award 1990

Jose Augusto de Barros from Brazil, Roberto Lopez from Peru and Arturo Lomeli from Mexico have won the Olle Hansson Award for 1990, it was announced by the International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU) (Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific). The Award recognizes the work of outstanding Third World individuals in promoting the rational use of drugs.

Dr. Barros coordinates the Latin American office of Health Action International (HAI), a network of citizens, health and consumer groups working for the safe, rational and economic use of drugs. His work includes an analysis of women as the principal target of drug manufacturers in their advertising because they are seen as primarily responsible for their family's consumption of drugs.

Dr. Lomeli is a founding member of HAI and has promoted and investigated local and regional aspects relating to consumer health issues.

Dr. Lopez's campaigns for rational drug use in Peru have contributed substantially to consumer awareness, particularly in the rural areas.

The Award is named in memory of Olle Hansson, a leading Swedish paediatric neurologist and renowned advocate of patients injured during the 1960s by the anti-diarrhoeal drug clioquinol. He is also known as a powerful campaigner against the reckless marketing practices of drug multinationals.

The Award, which carries a prize of US$1,000 each, is managed by an international panel coordinated by the IOCU. IOCU is a federation of consumer organizations dedicated to protecting and promoting consumer interests worldwide through research, information and education activities.

Kenya: Kemron goes on sale

Nairobi—Kemron, the Kenyan drug that reverses symptoms of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) went on sale in Kenya at the end of July, according to Peter Tukei, a medical officer with the World Health Organization (WHO). Clinical trials also started at the same time in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Cameroon, he said.

Dr. Tukei, who works with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), which discovered the drug [see *DF*, July-August 1990], said the pricing of Kemron has been worked out by the ministries of health and research, science and technology and the national AIDS committee.

While warning that Kemron should not be mistaken for a cure for AIDS, Tukei added that it was time to make the drug available to the public.

The director of KEMRI, Davy Koech, has said that there is need for more research to determine how the drug actually works to measure its overall effectiveness as a treatment for AIDS.

KEMRI has conducted clinical trials with the drug since last year and so far, no harmful side effects of the drug have been detected. The United States, Britain, Philippines and Thailand will also carry out clinical tests on Kemron.

IPS □

international education dossier

A fisherman instructs *campesinos*

The literacy project described in this dossier—our first from Latin America—uses many of the elements found to be effective in Asia and Africa, such as linking learning closely to daily life in the community. Like the others, the goals go beyond literacy and numeracy: participants are given a start towards life-long learning and develop critical awareness and social skills which will enable them to better their communities.

This project, however, differs from its predecessors in several ways. The agent is a volunteer from the community who has been trained in teaching literacy and "empowerment". The programme is being undertaken by a peasant federation to which the local people belong. These two factors strengthen the participation of the learners in their own education—a requirement not only for basic education but for all learning. —*Editor*

by John L. Hammond

At 4 o'clock most afternoons, Salvador Beltrán leaves his work as a fisherman on the shores of Lake Ilopango near San Salvador, capital of El Salvador. He walks for an hour and a half to catch a bus which takes him to his small brick home where he lives with his wife and several of his seven children. After wolfing down some hot soup without even sitting down, he hurries off to his 6 p.m. class nearby.

Beltrán, known as "Chambita" to his friends and students, is a volunteer literacy teacher. For two hours, five nights a week, he meets with a group of 14 students, seven men and seven women between the ages of 20 and 30, all residents of his small community of Apulo Amatitán.

In a small classroom in the shabby local schoolhouse, Beltrán begins the literacy session by showing his students a large photograph of two men in straw hats walking down a dusty road carrying machetes. The same photograph appears in the students' primer. Beltrán invites them to "reflect" on the photograph: who are these men—are they students, workers, men who are loafing? What are they doing? Are they happy or sad?

The men and women sitting at worn wooden desks enter into an animated discussion: the straw hats indicate the two men are going to be out in the sun; the machetes mean that they were going to work or to look for work. They are *campesinos* (peasants).

"That's the interesting word we're going to look at", says Beltrán. "Who are *campesinos?*" The participants offer various replies: "We are people who live in the *campo* (countryside), outside the capital." "We are people who cultivate the earth." They think of themselves as *campesinos* even though some are construction workers or housewives. "And what do we grow?" he asks. "Corn." "Beans." "Coffee." "Sugar cane." "Vegetables." Students compete with each other, naming some 15 different crops.

It is five years since Beltrán taught his first literacy class. Now 38, he belongs to a fishermen's cooperative that is affiliated with the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives (FENACOA). One of its best educated members—he had completed sixth grade (primary school) as a boy—he had been invited to take several special training courses in fish cultivation and cooperative management. Several years ago the federation joined a Ministry of Education programme to conduct literacy classes in rural communities. Beltrán volunteered to teach in Apulo Amatitán, and, along with other volunteers, was trained by the Ministry.

What Beltrán found hardest about teaching at first was overcoming his shyness. "I didn't know if I was going to say good things, or if they would like me. I had never spoken up in a meeting. But at the beginning I told my students I wasn't a professional, just someone who wanted to teach them the little bit that I knew. I might even mispronounce words, I said, but they shouldn't be surprised."

He has clearly overcome his fear, because he conducts the lesson with complete assurance and obvious enthusiasm. He pushes the discussion forward by asking who among the participants had land, and where. No one in the group owned his own land. One man rented a field 14 kilometres from his home, the closest piece of land he had found. Another had rented one-fourth of a hectare because that was all he could afford. Others had not rented, either because they could not find any land or because they could not get credit to buy seeds and fertilizer. "A lot of us are displaced from the war", says one man. "Displaced people take over empty state-owned land and try to farm it, but we have no papers for the land so we can't get credit."

Beltrán and other volunteer teachers from grassroots groups helped to develop the primer he is using with his class. Titled *Learning Literacy for Peace*, it was produced by the Inter-Association Literacy Committee of the Eastern Zone (CIAZO), which supports the literacy programmes of several grassroots organizations. Before producing the primer, volunteers from CIAZO had conducted a linguistic survey in their communities, asking people to name the most common kinds of foods, to describe their houses, to discuss their festivals and to talk about similar everyday activities. Then the volunteers met with professional teachers from CIAZO to thrash out the contents.

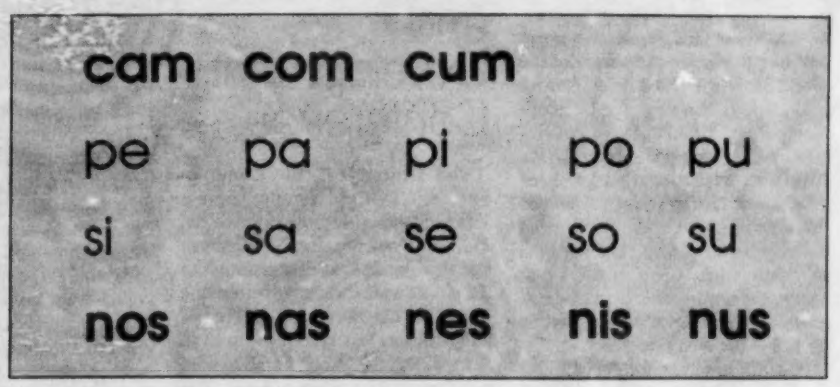
One of these teachers, who requested that she not be identified, said that collaborating with the organizations to develop the primer had been time-consuming but valuable. "Lots of the words in the primer are things some of them suggested. You will find many unusual words—someone might ask why we spent so much time doing research to find these words! But the important thing is to involve the people from the organizations, so that they feel this material is *theirs*.

"It's different when literacy work is carried out by grassroots groups", she added. "They see literacy as a human right, so they make it a demand, a conquest of the people's rights, and tell people that's why they should join the literacy circles."

Only after half an hour of animated discussion about peasant life does Beltrán turn the class's attention to reading. He writes the word *campesino* on the board and asked the class to divide it into syllables.

Then they construct the "syllabic families" of the word by varying the vowel in each syllable. When he asks for the syllabic family of "cam", students offered "cum", "com", and "kem". "No", he says, with the sly smile of someone about to reveal an inscrutable mystery. "It's not kem, it's cem". They go on to "cim", "pa", "pi", "po", "pu", "sa", "se", and so forth.

They recite the syllabic families in unison several times. Beltrán then asks for volunteers to read them individually. After five people do so, he calls for a round of applause, in which the whole group joins enthusiastically.



He uses methods derived from the work of Paulo Freire, the Brazilian literacy pioneer whose ideas have been used throughout the developing world. One precept is that consciousness-raising must be part of education for poor adults who have had no opportunities to study. Often adult students feel that their ignorance is their own fault and that they are not capable of learning. Before they can learn, they must be empowered to believe in their worth and their rights.

The primer is therefore based on a series of "generative words". They include all the letters and the most common consonant combinations of the Spanish language, but they also provide material for reflection. The atmosphere in the literacy sessions is one of equality: those who conduct the instruction are peasants, just like those who are learning.

When he was trained by the Ministry of Education, Beltrán was just told to teach people to read and write. The primer included words which had little meaning for peasants. *Pala* (shovel), for example. "We don't use the shovel", he explains. "When we go to the field, we take a hoe, or a machete. No one cares about getting a shovel. The hoe, yes; it helps you produce, and when you come back from the field you've made 10 pesos."

Beltrán is sure that people learn better if they do not just read but reflect on what they are reading in words that are relevant to their lives. "There's more participation; they have more time to give opinions and to reflect, to think about what to do or why things happen. They feel motivated because someone is paying attention to them and treating them like human beings. Before, it was just getting them to learn the word."

The meeting concludes when the members discuss with a visitor why they thought it was important to learn to read. Many illiterate people don't participate, they said, for a variety of reasons: they say that they are too old, their eyesight isn't good enough, or simply that it isn't going to do them any good.

Others, however, don't have time because of economic pressures: in this fishing community, Beltrán explains, lots of men take their wives to help them fish. "If a man hires a boy to help him, what they catch isn't enough to feed his family and pay the boy, so he takes his wife. They spend the whole night, and leave the kids in someone else's house."

Still, the students believed it was important to learn to read. For very practical reasons: "Sometimes you need to sign something, and if you can't read it you don't know what you are signing. You can't get credit to buy seeds if you can't sign your name." A woman offers, "Sometimes a woman who is too poor to buy a new dress may want to make one; she has to be able to read a pattern and measure the cloth." A man says, "In a store, they may overcharge you."

Beltrán mentions the cooperatives' need for people who can read and write to take responsibility in the organizations. To the teacher working for CIAZO, this was one of the organization's most important reasons for offering resources to help develop the materials and organize the literacy circles. "The organizers thought we were going to solve their fundamental problem, which is to find qualified people. I was astonished to see the confidence they had in the literacy programme."

Beltrán finds that teaching is as much a matter of human relations as of technical knowledge. "I like to share with all the people. In the evening I ask them, 'What did you do today? Are you working? Why didn't you find work?' I can be wiped out, but while I'm there I forget my problems for a while, and I don't feel tired until I get home", he says. "You put love into it." □

John L. Hammond is a professor of sociology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He regularly visits Central America for his research.

ngo forum

IMF/World Bank

Checking the Bank

Over 100 development and environment NGOs from around the world will converge in Washington from 20-22 September for an alternate forum on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Timed to precede the annual meeting of the Bank and the IMF, the forum will provide an opportunity for dialogue and discussion on the lending practices of the two institutions and possible strategies for changing them.

"The objective is popular movement building to change the nature of the World Bank/IMF's work in the South", said Doug Hellinger of the Development Group for Alternative Policies (D-GAP), a Washington-based NGO. "We want to review what has been done in the last five years, what has been the response of the Bank, what it means on the ground, and what the alternatives are." This analysis will enable the movement to plan its short-term and long-term strategies, setting goals for the next five years.

Organizers of the forum will also produce a newsletter during the annual meeting, entitled *BankCheck*, to be distributed to journalists, NGOs and interested Bank and IMF staff.

For more information contact the Bank Information Center, 2000 P Street NW, Suite 515, Washington, DC 20036, USA. Tel. (202) 822-0433; Fax (202) 822-0844.

the 1990s". Over 800 NGO representatives are expected to attend the workshops and plenaries from 12-14 September and, according to Farouk Mawlawi, chief of NGO relations for DPI, they hope to present substantive recommendations to the heads of state attending the summit two weeks later.

A copy of the final report of the conference can be obtained by writing to Farouk Mawlawi, Chief, NGO and Institutional Relations Section, Department of Public Information, Room S-10370, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA.

networking

Environment and Development Conference

The Centre for Our Common Future (CCOF) plans to organize a series of public forums prior to the 1992 UN Conference on Development and Environment in Brazil similar to the worldwide hearings before the Bruntland Commission. The first of these forums was held in Nairobi in August, and the Centre hopes to hold as many as 12 additional ones. The purpose of the forums is to provide an additional way for NGOs to send their views to the Conference in 1992.

The Centre will also be publishing a newsletter which will be a tool for NGO efforts to coordinate and keep organizations have planned or are planning for Brazil.

For more information on the forums or the newsletter, contact CCOF, Palais Wilson-52, rue des Paquis, CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel. (022) 7327117; Fax (022) 7389048.

debt

Debt swap in Ecuador

The Debt-for-Development Coalition, Inc. has announced that plans are underway for a debt swap transaction in Ecuador which could benefit not-for-profit organizations with limited resources. The Coalition was founded by InterAction (American Council for Voluntary International Action), PACT and other organizations.

The Coalition has been working with the Ecuadorian government and other organizations under the current debt-for-development programme. The Ecuadorians recently extended the deadline until 30 June 1991 and have increased the limit of debt available for conversion for not-for-profits from $50 million to $150 million. Priority areas are environment, education, social and cultural programmes, and amateur sports, and are expected to include agriculture.

InterAction members interested in participating in Ecuador's Debt-for-Development programme should have a minimum of $15,000 in programme funds, a designated recipient organization and programme in Ecuador, and a willingness and ability to commit programme funds by 17 September 1990. Organizations meeting these criteria should contact E. Everett Post, Jr., at (202) 467-0884.

Organizations interested in participating in the debt conversion programme between October and January 1991 are invited to contact Margaret Fahs, The Debt-for-Development Coalition, Inc., 1707 L Street, NW, Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036, USA.

children

As part of the run-up to the World Summit for Children the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) is sponsoring a three-day conference for NGOs entitled "A World Safe for Children: Meeting the Challenge in

up with events and activities leading up to the Conference.

Each month the newsletter will highlight issues, information and conferences on a regional and sectoral basis to facilitate communication among NGOs. All groups are urged to contribute information on what their

contests

Institute offers tech library

Following its successful March contest (see *DF*, Mar-Apr 1990), the Syntropy Institute has announced a second-round contest. Third World peoples' organizations at the grass-roots level are invited to send a two-page description of their group and reasons why they need the 100-book TRANET A.T. MINI LIBRARY prize. Entries should also state the use that will be made of the books. The winner will be announced at the end of the year—all other entries will be circulated to other donors for possible support.

This award marks the 100th mini-library to be sent to a Third World village since the project started five years ago. Each TRANET (Transnational Network for Appropriate/Alternative Technologies) library consists of 100 carefully selected do-it-yourself manuals covering all aspects of appropriate technology—food production, house building, family health maintenance, machinery repair and the establishment of cottage industries.

The Syntropy Institute uses education, innovation and cultivation of responsible individual initiative to help foster sustainable development. Its activities include technical assistance to groups in developing nations, scholarships, and free counseling and seminars. The Institute is interested in maintaining contact with Third World NGOs which would like to communicate with donor individuals and organizations.

Mail entries to Syntropy Institute Essay Contest, c/o Randall Burns, 302 College Ave., Palo Alto CA 94306, USA; or TRANET, P.O. Box 567, Rangeley ME 04970, USA.

economics

TOES: The voice of the people

"One City, Two Summits" was the way *Newsweek* magazine described Houston in early July. That Texas city was indeed the site of two very different events grappling with global issues—the annual Group of 7 (G-7) Economic Summit of the seven richest nations and The Other Economic Summit, or TOES.

The theme of this year's TOES, which was first organized in London in 1984, was "The Voice of the People for a Change". Almost 1,000 persons from over 40 countries took part in 60 plenaries, workshops and "issue summits" on a wide range of topics from sustainable development and Gandhian economics to ecological accounting and alternative financial institutions.

A major focus of TOES was the second annual Summit of the Seven Poorest Peoples, initiated at last year's TOES in Paris. Witnesses from Bangladesh, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Philippines and Puerto Rico, as well as Native Americans, described their struggles for survival. This was in sharp contrast to conditions the G-7 leaders claimed were prevailing in their countries. In fact, many TOES participants challenged this rosy picture of the G-7 countries, pointing to widespread destitution and environmental pollution, beginning in Houston itself which has half a million people below the poverty line.

Another event at this year's TOES was a summit of popular leaders from the Americas. Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva from Brazil, Cuauhtemoc Cárdenas from Mexico, Adalberto Carvajal from Colombia and Jesse Jackson from the United States all joined in issuing a communiqué demanding "the end to all conditionalities imposed by rich countries and their financial institutions like the IMF and the World Bank". They also protested the "indiscriminate liberalization" of world trade being pushed by the G-7 at the current round of GATT negotiations, noting that "equal treatment to unequal partners leads to the deepening of inequalities".

In its final communiqué to the G-7 Economic Summit, TOES again criticized the economic policies of the G-7 governments for contributing to the erosion of social stability and environmental quality. TOES protested "the G-7 domination of the global political economy with the resulting concentration of wealth and power", especially transnational corporations, the 15 largest of which now have gross incomes greater than 120 countries. The TOES communiqué urged using more sensitive economic indicators that account for the social and environmental costs of unbridled economic growth.

The two Summits were a study in contrasts. TOES was put together on a tiny budget, mostly provided by the participants themselves through registration fees. The Houston Host Committee for the G-7 Summit raised nearly $10 million, primarily from the local business community, to provide lavish hospitality for the visiting heads of government, their entourages and even the press which were treated to not one but five continuous buffet lines of free food at the International Press Pavilion.

But notwithstanding such problems, TOES was pronounced a rousing success by participants at the last plenary session and a collective decision made to meet again next year in London.

Ward Morehouse

The author, Chairman of the Intermediate Technology Development Group of North America, covered TOES and the G-7 Summit for Development Forum.

meetings

LDC conference in Paris

NGOs from across the world will gather in Paris for the Second UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries. A steering committee of LDC and Northern NGOs has been created to help facilitate NGO lobbying on priority themes before and during the Conference. These are: debt and adjustment, environment, women, disarmament, aid, human rights and people's participation, and trade in food products and biotechnology and the effect of GATT on the LDCs.

In addition to direct lobbying, NGOs will also present position papers on the various issues before the Conference, encourage networking with and among LDC NGOs, and produce a newspaper for distribution to delegates and the media.

A post-conference information kit can be obtained by writing to the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. For an update on NGO activities, write to the International Coalition for Development Action, 115 Rue Stevin, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

development

Development and environment organizations in Africa, Latin America and Asia face a barrage of problems ranging from failed project implementation to difficult policy planning. The **Participatory Rural Appraisal Handbook**, based on fieldwork in Kenya, spells out techniques for helping communities define problems, prioritize opportunities and prepare a systematic and site-specific plan of action. "How-to" advice includes the use of visual aids, discussion and interview techniques and strategies for long-term organizing and action.

Available for $10 (developing country NGOs free with explanatory note). Write to Kathleen Courrier, Center for International Development and the Environment, World Resources Institute, 1709 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20006, USA.

europe

Contacts with East European NGOs

The 16th EEC-NGO General Assembly which met in Brussels recently lauded the process of democratization in Eastern Europe. Yet there was concern among many Southern partner organizations that the diversion of attention and financial resources to Eastern Europe could be detrimental to development possibilities in the South.

The meeting was attended by 12 elected NGO delegations from EC member states, members of the EC-NGO Liaison Committee as well as representatives of the EC Commission and Parliament.

The European NGOs attending the meeting agreed that the East European countries should be supported financially and politically, given the poor economic and environmental shape most of them are in. They applauded the quick and positive response on the part of rich countries and financial institutions, together with the European Community, to addressing the needs of Eastern Europe.

The participants stressed, however, that the money provided to East European countries must not come from funds previously destined for the South. Economic support for Eastern Europe, as well as additional funds for the Third World, they said, must come from savings on military expenditure that the end of the cold war had made possible.

West European NGOs expressed the desire to expand contacts with those East European organizations that are committed to increased solidarity with the Third World, though they are aware that given the pressing problems in these countries, most NGO initiatives are currently focused on domestic problems. It is important, they said, that European NGOs which are experienced at contributing to the construction of democratic societies in the Third World share their knowledge with their East European partners.

Furthermore, the NGO-EC Liaison Committee offered to stimulate the creation of contacts between Southern and East European NGOs, such as women's and youth organizations, and cooperatives.

For more information, contact Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation (NOVIB), Amalialaan 7, 2514 JC, The Hague, Netherlands. Tel.: (3170) 3421621; Fax (3170) 3614461.

trade

Operation GATTastrophe

The Research Group for an Alternative Economic Strategy (GRESEA), a Belgian NGO, has issued an "Alert for Action GATT" calling on NGOs to plan continuous activities in Brussels before and during the final session of the Uruguay Round of the GATT talks from 3-6 December 1990.

"Operation GATTastrophe", as it is called, aims to alert public opinion to the gravity of the decisions which will be made at the Round and ask that the governments of the rich countries reach a just agreement which will prevent GATT regulations from becoming solely an instrument to expand international trade for their own benefit.

A number of European NGOs involved in GATT-related work have planned a series of events leading up to the meeting in Brussels, including the presentation of an NGO position paper on the Round and the convening of a parallel NGO event before and during the session.

For more information contact Alert for Action GATT, c/o GRESEA, 11 Rue Royale, 1000 Brussels, Belgium; or Development NGOs, GATT Steering Committee, 62 Avenue de Cortenbergh, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

Soapbox

In this column, ngo representatives freely sound off on major and contentious issues of the development-environment debate.

Africa: global reforms key

Despite their failure to create anything better than economic stagnation in Africa, the "wise men" of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and many Western governments continue to insist that their "free market" prescriptions will foster development. Despite dozens of African governments swallowing these prescriptions in the form of "structural adjustment" programmes, the World Bank's newest *World Development Report* predicts that sub-Saharan Africa will be the one region of the world that will not experience significant economic growth by the end of the century.

The problem with the free market strategy, as should be apparent to everyone by now, is that it does nothing to change the international structures that caused Africa's economic crisis in the first place.

Take the notion of "comparative advantage" for example, which argues that poor countries can compete in world markets because they hold a trade advantage in certain commodities and can improve their well-being by expanding exports. Even if we disregard the well-documented decline of raw material prices relative to manufactured goods, there is the problem that African countries have little or no control over those prices. These rest with such powerful institutions as the raw material exchanges in the North. Furthermore, it is large transnational corporations which control most of the marketing of these commodities. And, even if African countries manage to secure fair prices for their exports, multinationals are busy developing cheaper synthetic substitutes for them.

Despite all the free market rhetoric emanating from Western capitals, these same governments have erected protectionist barriers that cripple African exports. This is particularly significant when we consider that of Africa's total exports, 75 per cent go to developed capitalist countries.

Yet we don't hear the major industrial powers calling for "structural adjustment" of these international impediments to African development.

It is time we faced up to a simple truth. A solution to Africa's crisis will not come from the technical prescriptions of Northern-controlled banks and development institutions.

Contrary to media images in the West, the African poor are not helpless victims of the crisis. People all over Africa are organizing at the grassroots level to put pressure on leaders and to create alternative structures that can provide the income and services that the ruling strata have failed to provide.

Because some of the most serious obstacles to Africa's development are global in nature, African grassroots efforts must have support from those of us in the international community who understand that democratization in Africa must be matched by reform of the global impediments which hamper Africa's development. Many in the NGO community are in a position to influence the financial institutions and Western governments that control most of the capital and trade in the world. We owe it to our African brothers and sisters to foment "structural adjustment" in the international arena to match the policy changes going on in Africa.

Kevin Danaher is a senior analyst with the San Francisco-based Global Exchange, 2141 Mission Street, Suite 202, San Francisco, CA 94110, USA. Tel. (415) 255-7296.

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education

Make a World of Difference: Creative Activities for Global Learning, *Office on Global Education, 2115 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218-5755, USA. $10.00 (send cheque to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515, USA).*

A hefty handbook of engaging, introductory exercises for strengthening a global perspective. Clear step-by-step instruction: guiding group work, referencing the facts, linking the local and global, emphasizing the arts and outlining next steps. For all ages in school, community and church.

Teaching about Palestine, *United Nations Department of Public Information.*

This teacher's manual was designed for secondary school classes. It brings together information that exists in the UN on the question of Palestine in a form that can be applied easily in the classroom. It can be used separately or with an educational video entitled *About the United Nations: Palestine.* The video is presented by a 14-year-old American television reporter who visited the occupied territories. The first chapter of this manual is written as a teaching guide for the video, while other chapters explore various aspects of the question of Palestine and take Palestine as an example to delve into a study of nationhood and international humanitarian assistance.

Future teaching guides will cover peace-keeping, African recovery, literacy and decolonization.

To order UN publications and films on the Palestinian issue, contact your nearest UN Information Centre or Service. You may also write to Public Inquiries, Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA.

From OEF International, formerly the Overseas Education Fund, come two new training manuals for international development practitioners.

Tools for Community Participation, by Lyra Srinivasan, *($19.50)* was developed and published by the UNDP PROWWESS Programme (Promotion of the Role of Women in Water and Environmental Sanitation). The manual illustrates the why and how of a participatory training approach and more than 40 newly enhanced or previously unpublished training activities in how-to form. The author demonstrates how supportive policies and on-the-ground collaboration between technical and human resource teams can achieve lasting project impact through genuine community participation and the involvement of women in decision-making.

Learning to Teach, by Jane Vella, *($12.50)* was published by Save the Children and OEF International. The essence of the participatory approach comes to life in this step-by-step guide for the trainer designing and leading a training of trainers workshop. Twenty-five sessions enable workshop participants to learn and use the concepts and techniques of participatory training for community development, including: "How Adults Learn", "7 Steps of Planning", "Using Pictures, Sociodramas, Stories and Found Objects", and "Evaluation of Learning". This is an indispensable "primer" for trainers in any sector to develop and enhance facilitating skills, to plan a workshop, and to engage learners in a process of change.

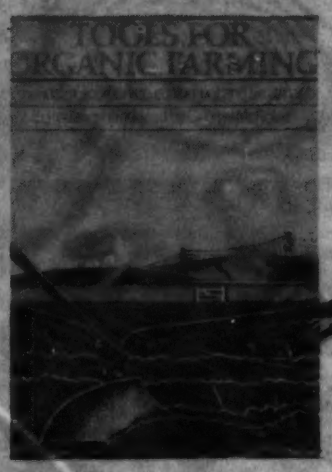
To obtain the 1990 publications list or to order, write to OEF International Publications, 1815 H St., N.W. 11th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006, USA. Tel. (202) 466-3430 Fax (202) 775-0886.

central america

The Inter-Hemispheric Education Resource Center, a private, non-profit research and policy institute located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, has just published seven **Country Guides**—on Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The books, by Tom Barry and by Kent Norsworthy, follow a common format and are divided into nine sections. In addition to a brief history and general overview, each book has the latest information on the economy, environment, government and current politics, women, popular organizations, labour and unions, and the influence and impact of foreign countries. The books are a must for all who are concerned about Central America.

Each Country Guide retails for $9.95 (plus $2.00 for postage and handling for the first book; 50 cents for each additional book, up to six). If ordering all seven books, postage and handling are free. Contact the Center for charges outside the US.

The Inter-Hemispheric Education Resource Center, Box 4506, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196, USA. Tel. (505) 842-8288.



appropriate tech

Tools for Organic Farming: A Manual of Appropriate Equipment and Treatments, George McRobie, Ed., *Intermediate Technology Publications (address below), £5.95.*

Not only in the Third World but now increasingly in industrialized countries, methods of large-scale capital-intensive farming are being questioned. Many people in industrialized countries are concerned that their food and water supply are poisoned by the nitrates and pesticides used in chemical-based farming: they feel that food quality and an environment which is sustainable are not worth sacrificing for high crop yields.

This manual builds upon selections from *Tools for Agriculture,* which lists small-scale and relatively inexpensive equipment for farming in developing countries. *Tools for Organic Farming* warns against chemical pesticides which upset the ecosystem and describes how to use natural crop protection methods instead. The book describes suitable low-cost tools for small-scale organic farmers—from hoes to lightweight threshers—and lists suppliers and manufacturers.

Technology Choice: A Critique of the Appropriate Technology Movement, by Kelvin W. Willoughby, *Intermediate Technology Publications, 103-105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH, UK; Westview Press, Inc., 5500 Central Avenue, Boulder, Colorado 80301, USA. £14.95.*

The idea of appropriate technology was popularized by E.F. Schumacher in *Small is Beautiful.* Since then appropriate technology has grown from a novel idea to become a substantial international movement with supporters both at grassroots level and in national governments and international organizations. It has also come under considerable criticism from more traditional economists.

Technology Choice aims to provide a review and critique of the theory of appropriate technology, the movement associated with it, and the practical experiments carried out in its name. The author combines a sober look at the obstacles to appropriate technology with an appreciation of the values which underpin the appropriate technology movement, and proposes a framework for integrating traditional economic development with the techniques of appropriate technology.

videos/films

1990: Environmental Catalog.

A new catalogue from the Video Project features 25 video and film programmes on global warming, the greenhouse effect, rainforest destruction, toxic waste, radioactive contamination, species protection, and the building of nuclear bombs.

Of special note in this collection are two remarkable Soviet films on the environment, the first films permitted to critically examine Soviet society.

The non-profit Video Project was founded in the early 1980s to produce and distribute affordable films and videos on issues critical to our future on the planet. It distributes over 120 programmes on a range of critical global issues, including preserving the environment, improving US-Soviet relations, resolving regional conflicts, and seeking alternatives to militarism.

The Video Project, 5332 College Ave., Suite 101, Oakland, California 94618, USA.

A new video package from PACT (Private Agencies Collaborating Together), **The Bonds of Change** ($30.00), offers practical answers to such questions as "How do we forge new alliances to deal with the sweeping challenges of the 1990s? What new opportunities for partnership must we grasp to become more relevant as we approach the year 2000? How do we stay on the cutting eadge of new institutional trends?"

Filmed in Africa, Latin America and Asia, the video (32 minutes) features three visionary alliances: Africa—a partnership to build people's organizations and local control; Latin America—an alliance to deliver technical and financial services to NGOs; Asia—a strategic coalition to tackle an urgent environmental problem.

The package includes a discussion leader's guide to help programme staff examine opportunities for forging new bonds within their own context.

To order and for more information on discounts and shipping charges, write to PACT Media Services, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA.

children

Prospects for Africa's Children (Hodder and Stoughton, 1990), *Education Unit, Save the Children, 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 8RD, UK. £6.99.*

To mark the adoption of the first UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Save the Children has published a new book focusing on the lives of African children through an anthology of vivid first-hand accounts.

This attractive and well-illustrated volume contains over 50 stories and case studies of children in a dozen African countries. These are by no means all hard-luck tales but also provide examples of courage, self-reliance and success, told by social workers, teachers, nurses, probation officers and in many cases the children themselves. The book has chapters on conflict, emergencies, health, the family and education.

transnationals

The United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations has issued 14 criteria for corporate environmental management by TNCs, incorporating inputs from TNCs, governments, environmental organizations and academia. Rather than a list of "do's" and "don'ts" for corporate management, **Criteria for Sustainable Development Management** embodies a corporate conscience on environmentally sustainable development. Broad new considerations are set down, including the use of technologies compatible with the needs, skills and resources of the host region; mitigation of negative effects from new products or processes on indigenous cultures and ecosystems; and diversification from excessive reliance on exports of non-renewable sources or monocultures. The necessity to train consumers on safe product use, workers on safety in the workplace, and to institute procedures for monitoring compliance with safety and health guidelines is addressed.

Copies may be obtained from Environment Unit, United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, Room DC2-1218, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA.

women

Making Women Matter: The Role of the United Nations, by Hilkka Pietilä and Jeanne Vickers, *Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, UK. £ 29.95/$49.95 (hbk), £ 8.95/ $15.00 (pbk).*

For over 40 years, United Nations bodies and agencies have been acting for the advancement of women as part of their global commitment to peace and disarmament, the promotion of human rights and social and economic development.

Using the history of UN involvement in these issues, the book shows how, over a remarkably short period of time, the approach to women's issues, originally based on the adoption and implementation of legal instruments for equal rights, has broadened to include all the dimensions and challenges of women's status in the face of multiple development constraints. It shows how action on behalf of, and indeed by, women, and the full recognition of their role, are essential components of the struggle to overcome the development impediments which continue to deprive entire populations—women, men and children—of real improvements in their living conditions.

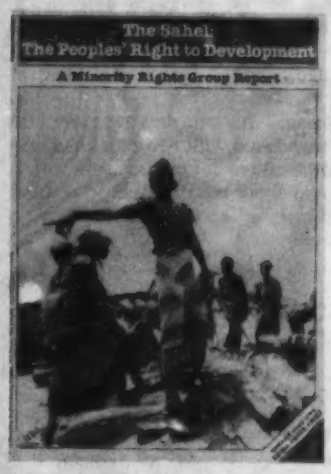
Women and New Technologies: An Organizing Manual, *The Tribune, International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC), 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA. $3.00.*

This manual, a joint production of IWTC and the World YWCA, came about after a "Women and New Technologies" meeting held in The Netherlands in September 1989. At

that time workshops were held on the distinct impact on women of: appropriate technology, biotechnology, communications technology, nuclear technology, office technology and reproductive technology. Each workshop presented the facts and offered ideas on how women could assess the opportunities and dangers

from a personal and political perspective.

The manual was designed as a resource guide for participants to continue organizing in their own countries, as well as to inform others about the issues involved. There is a full list of participants, resource people and organizers.



sahel

The Sahel: The Peoples' Right to Development, by Nigel Cross, *Minority Rights Group, 379 Brixton Road, London, SW9 7DE, UK. £3.00/US$6.00.*

The Sahel is a vast area of low rainfall, sparse vegetation and poor soil stretching 6,000 kms across Africa from Mauritania in the west to Ethiopia and the Red Sea coast in the east. It is home to over 50 million people.

This timely report from the Minority Rights Group provides a stimulating account of the economic, political and environmental problems faced by the peoples of the Sahel. The report pays particular attention to the role of governments, international donors and Western development agencies. The author argues that much of the aid which has gone to the Sahel has been inappropriate; only when representatives of the mass of ordinary Sahelians are able to exercise their rights as equal partners in planning for the future will sustainable development be a real possibility.

courses

The Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, The Netherlands, is offering two post-graduate diploma programmes and an M.A. in development studies.

Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in International Law and Organization for Development.

The programme is directed towards studying contemporary international law in a North-South perspective, with special focus on the contribution of international law and international institutions to development policies. Particular attention is paid to relations and dialogue between industrialized and developing countries.

The programme is intended for staff of ministries of foreign affairs, justice or of other relevant ministries, and for staff of international organizations, universities or research institutes, business organizations or other NGOs, as well as for graduate students.

Post-Graduate Diploma Programme on International Relations and Development.

The programme aims to provide the professional skills needed for the interdisciplinary analysis of contemporary international relations and developments in the global economy, and for the evaluation and conduct of foreign policy and development diplomacy.

The programme is open to diplomats, staff of ministries of foreign affairs, trade and finance, staff of international organizations, academics and graduate students in international studies.

Master of Arts in Development Studies (Politics of Alternative Development Strategies).

The objective is to examine critically the various theories and strategies that attempt to overcome the current polilitical and theoretical crisis of existing development models—those that address themselves to economic, political and cultural activity at the grassroots, self-empowerment of the population, and the extension of democray in all areas and levels of social life.

The course is open to staff of NGOs and representatives of social movements from the Third World; planners and advisers in various ministries—social affairs, interior, education, planning, foreign affairs and culture; those in socio-political research and teaching, and development studies generalists.

For further information, please contact: Academic Registrar (c/o Student Office), Institute of Social Studies, P.O. Box 90733, 2509 LS The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel. 70-510100. Fax 70-549655.

environment

Towards Green Villages: A Strategy for Environmentally Sound and Participatory Rural Development, Anil Agarwal and Sunita Narain, Eds., *Centre for Science and Environment, 807, Vishal Bhawan, 95 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019, India.*

As the population of the Third World grows, the management of the natural resource base in a sustainable manner and at increasing levels of productivity will require tremendous social discipline, political sagacity and technical ingenuity. One thing is clear—that the environment cannot be regenerated or managed without the involvement of the people. But while governments talk about the need for people's involvement, they remain in a quandary about how it can be achieved.

This booklet takes a detailed look at the issues as they pertain to India. Taking the successful cases of environmental regeneration in many Indian villages, the booklet proposes solutions that have less to do with trees, grasses or watersheds—the stuff that more environmental documents are full of—but more with the nature of village institutions, national laws, financial mechanisms and planning processes. In other words, a system which will help people to take decisions and to act on their own.

World Resources 1990-91, *Oxford University Press. $20.95 postpaid.*

This reference book on global environmental trends and conditions contains essential economic, population, environmental and natural resource data for 146 countries. Also, new findings on the rate of tropical deforestation; rankings of greenhouse gas emissions by country; an overview of Latin America's environment; and reports and analyses of the world's most critical environmental and natural resource problems.

More than 180 tables, charts, graphs and maps cover everything from population to freshwater supplies and quality, from air pollution to land cover and soil types. The book charts the decline of African elephant herds, shows that the annual fish catch in 12 out of 16 regional ocean fisheries is at or above sustainable levels, and discusses lack of sanitation and sewage treatment in rapidly growing urban centres of the developing world.

The report was produced by the World Resources Institute in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme and the UN Development Programme.

Available in English from bookstores or from World Resources Institute Publications, P.O. Box 4852, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211, USA. For information about editions in Russian, Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, German and Chinese, contact the World Resources Report, 1709 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

asia

The Asia Resource Center (ARC) provides educational materials, audio-visual resources and speakers on the peoples and cultures of Asia and the Pacific, and US policy in the region. It works to show how the fundamental issues—human rights, nuclear disarmament, justice for the poorest, the rights of women and minorities—transcend national boundaries.

Currently available resources include:

- Audio-visual resources: films, videos and slide shows to support responsible development projects in Indochina, and films and videos dealing with Korea, the Philippines, and the militarization of the Pacific Basin.
- Publications: AMPO, an English-language magazine published six times a year by the Pacific Asia Resource Center in Tokyo, gives in-depth reports on Asia/Pacific issues; The Indochina Newsletter features a single subject in each newsletter, including Agent Orange in Viet Nam, reconstruction in Laos, and the carnage of the Pol Pot rule in Cambodia.
- Speaking tours: ARC speakers present programmes in universities, high schools, churches, etc., with emphasis placed on how US policies affect Asian peoples.
- Networking: ARC provides audio/visual materials; helps prepare Asian dinners; provides mini or full exhibits; and sends speakers with expertise in areas of special interest to the groups. ARC also participates in national and community coalitions, such as the Philippine Human Rights Lobby, the Korea Support Network, the International Labor Rights Working Group, and the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Peace Committee.

Asia Resource Center, P.O. Box 15275, Washington, D.C. 20003, USA. Tel. (202) 547-1114.

fellowships

Partners of the Americas is expanding its **Fellowship in International Development.** The 25-year-old Partners links private citizens in 46 US states and 31 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean into partnerships. For example, Peru is partnered with Texas, and Kansas is linked with Paraguay. Citizens on each side work together to carry out projects that promote economic and social development and foster mutual understanding.

Fellowship classes enable 20 individuals from the US and 20 from Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in a series of seminars and development projects over a period of two and a half years. Through these activities, participants broaden their knowledge of international development and strengthen their management, planning and decision-making skills.

For more information, contact: Partners of the Americas, 1424 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, USA. Tel. (202) 628-3300.

workshops

International Health Programs has conducted training workshops for family health programme personnel in developing nations for the past 18 years. Health professionals from more than 60 countries have participated. Specific projects and issues brought to the workshop by participants become case studies which are examined as part of the training. Participants complete action plans to address problems they anticipate solving upon returning to their duties.

The remainder of the 1990 training schedule includes "Communication for Health" (French), 12 Nov—7 Dec; "Family Life Education" (French), 24 Sept—19 Oct; "Nutrition in Development" (English), 9-27 July 1991.

For more information, write to International Health Programs, [illegible]rn Consortium for Public Health, 210 High [illegible]nta Cruz, California 95060, USA. Tel. (408) [illegible] Fax (408) 458-3659.

calendar

Conferences on a More Democratic United Nations (CAMDUN), New York City, USA, 13-15 October 1990.

On the suggestion of the International Network for a UN Second Assembly (INFUSA), a group of organizations agreed to sponsor the first of a series of international conferences on "a more democratic United Nations".

CAMDUN-1 will provide an open forum for discussion of such subjects as: a UN Second Assembly, composed of non-governmental delegates representing the people as global inhabitants; a tricameral UN representation—a governmental chamber (as at present), a citizens' chamber, and a chamber to represent economic interests; a second chamber of the General Assembly composed of delegates selected by member states on a modified population basis; a popularly elected UN consultative assembly; and a call for world democratic voting on world issues, conducted by the UN, with the first referendum to be on the question "Should all nuclear weapons be destroyed?".

Inquiries, suggestions and offers of cooperation may be made to either of the Conference Co-ordinators: Dr. Harry Lerner, 301 East 45th St., Suite 208, New York, NY 10017, USA. Tel. (212) 983-3353.
Dr. Jeffrey Segall, 308 Cricklewood Lane, London NW2 2PX, UK. Fax 071 281-5717.

From Cold War to Cooperation: Dynamics of a New World Order, 23-25 January 1991, Washington, D.C., USA.

The eyes of the world have recently been on Eastern Europe, but in the countries of the Third World there is fear that they are being left out of the picture. Even though East-West conflict has been a major bipartisan reason for US interest in the Third World, it has not proven to form a satisfactory basis for long-term relationships, nor does it provide a rationale for current involvements. With the East-West conflict sharply declining throughout the world, policy leaders in many countries are asking what will replace this motivation for US concern in the Third World and can the motivation be the basis for more positive and productive relations.

Panel discussions will include "Americans who are thinking globally and acting locally"; "Developing new US national security interests"; "Issues in the new world order"; and "Issues for US policies in the 1990s".

For more information, contact the International Development Conference, 1401 New York Ave., N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005, USA.

catalogues

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Green counter-revolution: getting rid of pesticides

A decision to ban the use of 57 registered pesticides in Indonesia's rice fields has helped to bring a major insect pest under control, save the government close to US$150 million a year and raise crop production from six to seven tons per hectare. It has also highlighted a major flaw in the technology package for Asia's Green Revolution—a flaw which most other governments in the region have been slow to correct.

The basic Green Revolution package which was introduced to Asia in the mid-1960s included new seed varieties which had been genetically engineered to provide higher yields, fertilizers and pesticides, all in the company of large-scale irrigation and mechanization. The revolution brought spectacular gains in yields per hectare, although it now appears that the role of pesticides in the equation was greatly oversold.

Experts on integrated pest management (IPM) from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) now say that 15 years of data gathered by the International Rice Research Institute and its collaborating networks in Asia demonstrate no

by Ian Steele

positive yield response to insecticides. Worse, they say, the uncritical use of pesticides had upset an ecological balance between pests and their predators which had evolved over more than 3,000 years of rice farming in the region.

The most dramatic evidence of this was recorded in Indonesia where the rice brown planthopper—a minor pest before the Green Revolution—infested rice crops in Java and north Sumatra in 1976-77. In an effort to control the outbreak aircraft blanketed more than one million rice fields with pesticides, but to no avail. The brown planthopper heavily damaged more than 500,000 hectares, causing the loss of 350,000 tons of milled rice valued at more than $100 million—enough rice to feed three million people for an entire year.

Dr. Peter Kenmore, who heads an FAO regional programme for Integrated Pest Control in Rice in South and South-East Asia, said it was now well established that problems with the brown planthopper are a direct consequence of insecticide use.

He said that any policy for intensified rice production which bundled pesticides un-

UN/John Mair

critically together with fertilizers was in fact a "recipe" for brown planthopper.

Dr. Kevin D. Gallagher, an entomologist with the IPM programme in Indonesia, said there are normally several hundred species of insects in a rice field, and that for every pest there are many more insects which help the farmer. They are natural predators which do not damage the rice but feed on the pests which do. Imported pesticides—some of which were developed 20 years ago for crops other than rice and for pests in other regions of the world—make no distinction between pests and insects which are "farmer friendly". They kill indiscriminately.

Dr. Kenmore said that pesticides had been bundled together with fertilizers without field evidence of their value from the very beginning of the Green Revolution.

"Some of the early international conferences held in the Philippines in the late 1960s brought in people from the Harvard Business School who did a case study and concluded 'that the object of our work is not to get farmers to produce more rice, but to get farmers to consume more inputs'. That was the businessman's way of looking at it and that was taken on by the development planners." He said it was not until an ecological contradiction turned into a catastrophe that they spent time looking at it.

The uncritical use of pesticides went largely unchallenged by governments in Asia until 1986 in Indonesia, when catastrophe again seemed imminent. An outbreak of brown planthopper affected some 75,000 hectares of rice in central Java, and the government, fearing a repetition of the 1976 plague, tried a new approach. It quickly cut subsidies on pesticides and banned many pesticide products from use in the rice fields. A presidential decree banned the use of 57 brands of insecticides, and cut government subsidies to farmers for

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insecticide purchases from 70-75 per cent to 40-45 per cent in 1987, before withdrawing them altogether in January 1989.

When IPM became official government policy, national pesticide consumption fell from 14,000 to 5,800 metric tonnes between 1986 and 1987. As populations of natural predators recovered, the population of brown planthoppers in pesticide-free fields declined by 75 per cent.

Dr. Ida Nyoman Oka, an Indonesian entomologist and member of FAO's steering committee on IPM, told participants at a New York seminar that shortly after the ban, the use of organophosphate insecticides fell by about 60 per cent and average crop yields had risen from six to seven tons per hectare. Government savings on the import and subsidy of pesticides were in the order of $150 million a year and savings by farmers had freed cash for the purchase of fertilizers and other productive inputs.

Gains in environmental and public health had also been considerable, he said. Indonesian farmers were beginning to understand that pesticides were poisons which should be handled with care and used only when necessary.

"The farmers are becoming aware that in their fields they have an array of allies", he said. "These insect predators include lady birds, spiders, tiny parasites and insect pathogens, that are of great help to them. They now know that these creatures should be protected from the unscrupulous use of pesticide poisons."

Dr. Oka said this growing awareness of the risks associated with pesticides had important implications for public health since farmers and their families use irrigation water for bathing, cooking and drinking.

Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management gives priority to non-chemical controls such as host plant resistance and the use of insect predators to safeguard food and other crops against damage by insects.

In tropical countries where pesticides are expensive and pose health risks to farmers and consumers, IPM has a host of economic, social and environmental advantages which make the approach more sustainable in small agricultural systems. It was initially conceived as a response to worldwide pest problems created by the excessive use of synthetic pesticides and increasing rates of pest resistance to them.

IPM is not a new concept, but it has gained broad scientific recognition only in the past two decades, and a recent study endorsed by some of the senior international partners supporting its application reports that political support for the approach remains weak. In the case of rice, fewer than 5 per cent of the world's farmers have been exposed to it. The study suggests that one of the principal reasons for IPM's slow take-off has been the complex translation of a sound scientific approach into manageable services and programmes at field level.

Renewed interest in sustainable forms of development and environmental protection have given new currency to IPM which, under FAO's direction, has been from the bottom up. **I.S.**

FAO's IPM programme has provided intensive training in environmentally sound techniques to some 450,000 people in nine countries in Asia, but so far only two nations—Indonesia and the Philippines—have endorsed IPM as an official policy approach. Under IPM, farmers are trained to analyse their agro-ecosystem, assess the ratio of pests to predators, and use pesticides only as a last resort.

"IPM is not a product which can be adopted like a tube of toothpaste", said Dr. Kenmore. "It is a process which involves people in understanding ecology and handling ecological processes directly. In Indonesia, farmers are doing research in their own fields and learning about essential ecology. IPM is not a bottle of chemicals or a new bag of seeds. It is a management technology."

Dr. Oka said that the Indonesian model for IPM had attracted considerable interest among experts from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Malaysia and China, as well as from Africa and Central America. □

Ian Steele is a New York-based Australian journalist specializing in development issues and UN affairs.

Breaking the Pesticide Habit: Alternatives to 12 Hazardous Pesticides, by Terry Gips. *Available from IOCU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, PO Box 1045, 10830 Penang, Malaysia; or IASA, Newman Center at the University of Minnesota, 1701 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414, USA. $20 for individuals, $15 for IASA/PAN participants, $27 for institutions (surface mail: $3.00; airmail from IOCU: $7.50 Asia/Pacific; $10 Europe; $11.50 North America, Latin America, Caribbean and Africa). Discounts for 10 or more copies.*

This report presents descriptions of and alternatives to 12 hazardous yet widely used pesticides, including trade names, health and environmental effects, regulatory status and alternatives for agricultural and non-agricultural uses. It also provides recommendations for governments, business, farmers and consumers and provides useful appendices listing key organizations and trends in sustainable agriculture, resources, a glossary of terms and the addresses of major pesticide manufacturers.